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THE TIMES

35p

No. 65,847

WEDNESDAY MARCH 26 1997

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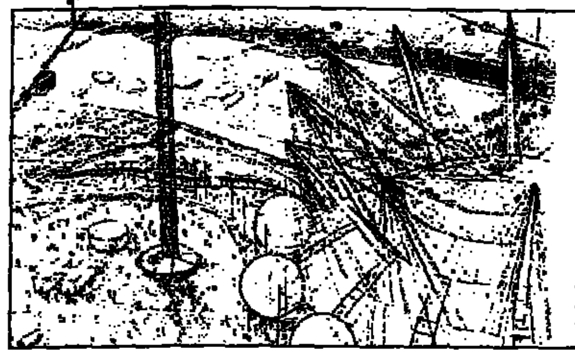

WE HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE
First look at the Millennium plans for Greenwich, PAGE 9

BUY BEFORE BLAIR SCARE
Alan Coren
PAGE 18

Arbitration in recognition disputes

Labour wants union role for judges

By Jill Sherman and James Landale

LABOUR was forced to disclose more details of its plans for trade union recognition yesterday, announcing for the first time that judges would have the final say in any disputes between employers and their workforce over recognising unions.

As Michael Heseltine accused the party of putting power back into the hands of trade unionists, Labour strategists had rapidly to flesh out its employment policy, adding details throughout the day.

The Tories had capitalised on their rivals' disarray by changing the topic of their early morning press conference, billed as an announcement of plans for extending testing for 14-year-old pupils.

Instead, the Deputy Prime Minister launched an all-out attack on Labour proposals to require firms to recognise trade unions where this was backed by 50 per cent of the workforce. Mr Heseltine said the measures would inflict "incalculable damage" on the country's reputation and pave the way for "licensed industrial blackmail", marking a return to the shopfloor strife of the Seventies.

"It could destroy in one session of Parliament our ability to attract massive investment from all over the world," he said. "Eighteen years of painstaking pursuit of excellence surrendered in 18 months of Labour power."

Gordon Brown, forced on to the defence, disclosed plans for a third party to arbitrate where employers and workers could not decide how union recognition would work. Party sources later confirmed that different units of the workforce could be balloted separately. And they conceded that in some cases an employer would want different plants to take part in a single, all-embracing ballot.

In what was widely seen as an attempt to defuse the row, the party signalled that measures to change laws on trade union recognition would not be a key priority and might not appear in the first Queen's Speech. A Green Paper is expected in the first year of a Labour government but there is no timetable on legislation.

Yesterday morning the Shadow Chancellor emphasised that workers had a right both to join and not to join a trade union. Labour's latest policy was a milder version of a system, backed by Ronald Reagan, that had operated in America without problems for several years, he said.

"A recognised unit would be something that would have to be agreed ... usually by employers and employees themselves," he added. If they could not agree, then a third party would have to decide. Mr Brown then suggested "a judge" would be the final arbiter in any dispute over what constituted "the relevant workforce".

Later Robin Cook, chairman of Labour's policy forum, suggested on Radio 4's *The World at One* that the final arbiter should be the Central Arbitration Committee, which decides on industrial disputes.

Two hours later party sources said disagreements would go initially to the Advisory Arbitration and Conciliation Service (Acas), then to the Central Arbitration Committee, which would in future be headed by a judge.

For several years Labour has suggested it would allow trade unions to be recognised at work if wanted by 50 per cent of the workforce. But it was only yesterday that the party was forced to clarify what would happen if there was a dispute between the employer and the employees.

Apart from pledging to reintroduce trade union recognition at GCHQ, Labour has made few concessions to the unions, claiming it will not repeal the raft of trade union laws introduced by Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s.

One further change is to grant employees the right to appeal to an industrial tribunal if dismissed after taking part in lawful industrial action.

Peter Riddell, page 10
Leading article, page 19

Rifkind attack on federalism

The Government gave notice that it planned to block a new treaty on the future of Europe if other members pressed ahead with plans to create a defence arm within the EU.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, accused his European partners of trying to "lurch in a federalist direction" every two or three years.........Page 2

PETER NICHOLLS

Proud parents Edward and Gloria Minghella, centre, celebrate their son's Oscar success with staff at their Isle of Wight ice-cream factory

Isle of Wight hails cream of the Oscars

By Bill Frost

CONES generously laced with vintage champagne were handed out to wellwishers at an ice-cream factory outside Ryde on the Isle of Wight yesterday as Edward and Gloria Minghella celebrated the Oscar success of their son Anthony. His clutch of nine for *The English Patient* was Britain's best performance yet at the Los Angeles awards.

Close friends, neighbours and refuse collectors began arriving in ever larger numbers soon after the factory opened. The switchboard had given up under the pressure of calls from across the world and the fax machine was running out of paper.

Had Mr Minghella's parents had their way, he might never have enjoyed the limelight in Hollywood. Before he went to university to study English and drama, they had suggested he follow them into the ice-cream business.

Yesterday, his father acknowledged an error of judgment as he basked in his son's triumph. "Yes, we weren't keen at first, his mother was horrified, but how could we have anticipated what would happen," he said. The director's mother, a deputy lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, was busy planning a celebration. "It's not every day your son wins nine Oscars and I doubt it will ever happen again.

"He called twice from Hollywood right after the ceremony, he's not sure when he will be able to get back. But you can be sure we will lay on one of the best parties ever for his return. In the meantime, we will toast him again tonight in champagne."

Edward and Gloria Minghella both feature in *The English Patient*. Their son flew them to Rome and then Tuscany along with his Aunt Bessie to play in a crowd scene as peasants celebrating VE Day. "We are dressed in costume and my sister and I play the accordion," said Mrs Minghella proudly. "Edward, my husband, plays tambourine, but not very well. "There was no fee — we did it for love. Anthony wanted us to feature in the film, he is very attached to his family and we are all very close. He knew my sister Bessie and I had played the accordion together as girls and wanted us to do it in the film. He just kept on at me saying 'please mum,' until I gave in."

Ten miles from Ryde at Shanklyn, Anthony Minghella's English teacher was also celebrating his former pupil's success. Gareth Pritchard, 64, remembers "a generous boy" with an outgoing personality. "To see how unbelievably well he has done makes me, and everybody else who knows and worked with him, very proud. The good thing is he has kept his feet on the ground and has remained the personable, likeable chap he was when I first met him."

Mr Minghella himself believes his formative years in such a small and insulated community helped to shape his work. There are two references to the Isle of Wight in his film. "I wanted to give some-

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Party politics, page 17

Minghella holds aloft his best-director award

"All we've got left is lying in the corridor"

Constituency moves to oust MP in sleaze row

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

TORY party members have begun moves to force Tim Smith, the MP who accepted £25,000 in cash from Mohamed Al Fayed, to stand down before the election.

And, in a letter to *The Times* today, Richard Branson, the millionaire businessman, called on Mr Smith and Neil Hamilton, the MP for Tatton, who are at the centre of the cash-for-questions controversy, to go now.

Mr Branson, the chairman of Virgin, urged Beaconsfield and Tatton Conservatives to take matters into their own hands and deselect the MPs.

Mr Smith has admitted taking cash but Mr Hamilton, who accepted two holidays in the Paris Ritz and failed to declare income tax on payments from Ian Greer, the lobbyist, has denied receiving money from Mr Al Fayed.

Constituency officers in Beaconsfield are consulting members to see if a new candidate should be chosen.

Caroline Strafford, who until last week was the political chairman and vice-chairman of the Beaconsfield association, said last night: "I am not prepared to support Tim Smith. He admits taking cash in brown envelopes but is not sure how much. He says he included it in his tax return, and so ought to be able to stay. Tim Smith should take the honourable course and stand down. He is affecting the

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Girl who killed at 12 is detained

Britain's youngest female murderer was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure after being found guilty of killing a woman when she was just 12.

Sharon Carr, now aged 17, stabbed 18-year-old hairdresser Katie Rackliff to death. The judge told Carr: "You are a very dangerous young woman".........Page 5

Marconi deal

The Marconi Collection of historic items from the earliest days of radio is to be given to the Science Museum after a U-turn by the electronics firm GEC-Marconi, which had planned to auction it.....Page 6

The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

Judge defends jailing of jurors

By Richard Ford and Stephen Farrell

A JUDGE last night defended his decision to jail two jurors, Bonnie Schot and Carol Barclay, for 30 days for contempt of court after they refused to take part in the jury's deliberations.

Judge Anura Cooray's action is believed to be the first such in more than 300 years, but he insisted that the women had wilfully refused to bring in a verdict at the end of a 17-day trial. He was replying to critics after Miss Schot, 20, the jury foreman, and Miss Barclay, 32, were released from Holloway pending an appeal.

"I was satisfied that their refusal to participate in the jury's deliberations constituted a clear contempt of court, and as such a sentence of imprisonment was the most appropriate course for me to take, he said. "Jurors must recognise they have a responsibility to fulfil their duties in accordance with their oath if the criminal justice system is to be upheld."

The two women were impanelled with ten other people last month to try five defendants in a £100,000 counterfeit currency case. They had heard evidence for 17 days at Knightsbridge Crown Court but, on March 12, after two hours of deliberation, it emerged that they had refused take part in discussions in the jury room because of their personal beliefs.

Miss Schot sent a note to the judge saying: "Your Honour, we are unable to come to any decisions owing to some jurors conscious [sic] beliefs. Please advise."

In his statement last night Judge Cooray said: "When the court asked for particulars and clarification, a further note was received which read: 'Your Honour, some members of the jury cannot bring themselves to make a true judgment due to our beliefs, not religious but personal.

'At the beginning of the trial, before we took the oath, we felt that we could not stand up in the court and stress this fact. We thought that our feelings may change over time. After retiring we found that we still feel the same and cannot give a true verdict to these defendants'."

The judge's statement added: "It later emerged that one of the two names given was that of the jury foreman,

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Judge Cooray: says he had no option but jail

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THE ENGLISH PATIENT 15

Foreign Secretary rejects moves on defence and immigration as foolish and dangerous

Rifkind threatens to block new Europe treaty

By Charles Bremner, Michael Evans and Philip Webster

THE Government gave notice yesterday that it planned to block a new treaty on the future of Europe if other members pressed ahead with plans to create a defence arm within the European Union and to subject immigration to majority voting.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, thrust Europe to the centre of the election campaign in Rome as he accused his European partners of trying to "lurch in a federalist direction" every two or three years. In London, a Franco-German proposal to incorporate the Western European Union defence organisation into the EU within 10 years was condemned as a "betrayal" of agreements that had been carefully crafted over the past year.

Mr Rifkind rejected the fresh proposals put forward by the Dutch presidency for the new treaty to be signed in June in Amsterdam. He said it would mean that immigration and asylum policy could no longer be determined by democratically elected parliaments, and the EU would for the first time be turned into an organisation of "collective security." He said the proposals had been tabled as a basis for negotiation, but they were not a basis for agreement.

His tough stance, seen as another move to underline his own and the Government's increasingly Eurosceptic stance, came as Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, claimed that a Labour government would restore Britain's influence in Europe while the Tories would lead the country "towards the exit door". However, on the two issues earmarked as sticking points by Mr Rifkind, Labour's stance is equally unbending.

The Foreign Secretary's performance was dismissed by some of his European colleagues as blatant electioneering; they felt it marred the champagne celebrations for the EU's fortieth anniversary. In London, defence officials reacted furiosuly. They said Britain had made significant progress in persuading her European partners that the Western European Union — the Brussels-based body representing Europe's defence interests — should be inextricably linked to Nato. One senior British official said angrily: "The French and Germans have now thrown everything back into the pot, including the kitchen sink."

Mr Rifkind said that the plan meant that for the first time in its history, the EU was trying to become an institution of collective security by bringing the Western European Union fully into the EU. That would amount to an EU commitment to go to war if a member state was attacked or invaded. He warned that such a plan would cause complications for four member states who remain neutral — Sweden, Ireland, Austria and Finland — as well as souring relations with Russia and adding immense complications to EU enlargement.

Britain is far from alone in its opposition to the scheme. Although backed by a core group of five other EU countries, it is opposed by the four neutral states, which are not members of the WEU.

Diplomats said it was highly unlikely that the Franco-German defence plan would see its way into the revamped Maastricht treaty because Britain had strong support for its resistance from the neutral Continental states. The plan, described by Mr Rifkind as foolish and dangerous, was formally discussed at the treaty negotiation in Rome yesterday after Hans van Mierlo, the Dutch Foreign Minister, suggested it be broached when the inter-governmental conference returns to defence next month.

The text, which won general support from the 14 other EU governments, provides for removing frontiers and applying majority voting to immigration and frontier questions within five years. It also calls for doing away with the veto in certain areas of foreign policy. The draft, part of a complete treaty which must be agreed in Amsterdam in June, also calls for the EU gradually to take on responsibility for European defence through the Western European Union.

Mr Cook, meanwhile, sought to contrast Labour's approach of cooperation with Europe with the Conservatives' confrontation. Outlining Labour's six-point business plan for Europe, Mr Cook said: "We cannot get the best business deal out of Europe under a government that constantly wants no deal at all with Europe."

Tory divisions on Europe are likely to be highlighted today when John Redwood stages a London photocall to publicise his new book arguing against the single currency. Ministers had hoped that it would be a low-profile event and have tried without success to encourage Mr Redwood to "pull" the book.

Peter Riddell, page 10

BRITAIN OUTPERFORMS GERMANY

Britain has jumped ahead of Germany, and one place behind Japan, in a world league table of economic performance published today. Top placings go to the United States, Singapore and Hong Kong. Britain has moved from 19th to 12th place in the study published by the Swiss-based consultants IMD. Factors in the improvement were said to be strong growth, falling unemployment, internationalisation, the financial sector and governmental performance. Germany was said to have suffered as a consequence of the economic impact of the reunification of the country, high business costs, slow company restructuring, and employment rigidities.

MPs call for Freemasons to come out

By Frances Gibb and Stewart Tendler

JUDGES, magistrates, police officers and Crown prosecutors should be required to declare publicly their membership of the Freemasons or any other secret society, the Home Affairs Committee of MPs said yesterday.

The committee's recommendation — which split members — follows its inquiry into Freemasonry in the judiciary and the police. Labour said it would introduce such a register if it won the election. John Major also supports the idea, despite some Tory opposition.

The MPs said in their report yesterday that there was "a great deal of unjustified paranoia about Freemasonry". There would be practical difficulties in establishing a register, but these would not be insuperable. "Nothing so much undermines public confidence in public institutions as the knowledge that some public servants are members of a secret society, one of whose aims is mutual self-advancement."

The committee urged Freemasons to set up a voluntary register rather than await legislation. "By openness and disclosure, all suspicion would be removed. We would welcome the taking of such steps by the United Grand Lodge."

The decision to recommend a compulsory public register divided the committee, with three Conservative members opposing the move. It was endorsed by five Labour MPs and one Tory MP. The proposal will be opposed by the 8,500 Masonic lodges in England and Wales, and by the Police Federation, which represents 120,000 officers.

The United Grand Lodge of England attacked the proposal. The Grand Secretary Commander, Michael Higham, said: "As a lawful and law-abiding society, Freemasons will be disappointed by this hasty conclusion...a recommendation which, if implemented, would interfere with a fundamental right in British life. There is no basis for saying that one of Freemasonry's aims is mutual self-advancement. Freemasonry is not to be used to advance interest, and that is very clearly understood by every Freemason."

The report says that, according to information it received from the United Grand Lodge, none of the Law Lords, two of 39 Appeal Court judges and one of 96 High Court judges were Freemasons. One of 75 judges on the Midland and Oxford circuit, and 16 out of 64 judges on the North East circuit were Masons. The committee was given a list of members of the now-disbanded West Midlands Serious Crime Squad who served between 1974 and 1989. The United Grand Lodge said 14 of the 96 individuals named were Masons.

Judge faces criticism for jailing two jurors

ANTHONY UPTON

Bonnie Schot, centre, leaving Holloway prison last night with her mother, Audrey, and sister, Donna

Continued from page 1

Bonnie Schot. The matter was carefully discussed with counsel when various implications were canvassed. And finally the court decided to discharge the whole jury and order a retrial."

On Monday Judge Cooray gave the two women the opportunity to explain their conduct but, after hearing them, he had no option but to jail them, he said.

As she left jail last night, Miss Schot described the Sri Lankan-born judge as "a very spiteful and vindictive man". Miss Schot, who has three A-levels and hade planned to be a barrister, added that she was no longer sure that she wished to pursue a career at the Bar.

Before her release she said she had felt bewildered by the facts of the lengthy case and had felt unable to make a decision. "I am shattered. It is outrageous that I have been locked up when I have never been in any trouble. I was just trying to do what was right."

When she came out of Holloway, Miss Schot, her mother, Audrey, and her sister Donna, 33, were driven away by reporters from a tabloid newspaper. A few moments later a black BMW believed to contain Carol Barclay left.

Lola Barclay, mother of Carol Barclay, an unemployed nursery nurse, said she was delighted her daughter had been released. "We cannot believe this has happened. It has been a nightmare," she said from Shepherd's Bush, west London.

Penal reform groups last night attacked the decision to jail the two women. "This was an indefensible and draconian use of imprisonment. This unreasonably harsh action can only discourage people form serving on juries," Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, said.

Leroy Redhead, the barrister representing the two women, said: "It is a very unfortunate situation and something which perhaps could have been handled slightly better."

Leading article, page 19

17th-century ruling established that refusal to deliver a verdict is common law offence

By Frances Gibb

A 17TH-CENTURY ruling by the Lord Chief Justice of the day established that it was a contempt under common law for a juror or jury to refuse to deliver a verdict unless to state that they cannot agree.

In a case called Bushell in 1670, jurors were committed to prison for returning a verdict "against the plain and manifest weight of evidence, and against the direction of the court on a point of law". But Lord Chief Justice Vaughan held that a jury could not be punished in a criminal case for such a finding, firmly establishing that jurors are immune over the verdicts they bring and cannot be sued if a conviction is later overturned.

Jury service is a duty that citizens have to undertake, barring those who are excused, ineligible or exempt. Refusal is an offence under the Juries Act 1974 and can carry a fine of up to £1,000.

Juries do not have to justify or give reasons for their decisions. Until the 17th century, they were often punished for verdicts proved wrong on appeal or contrary to the direction of the judge. The Court of Star Chamber often summoned juries and inflicted fines and imprisonment on them. In 1554, eight members of a jury were heavily fined and jailed for having acquitted Sir Nicholas Throgmorton of high treason.

But by 1607 the immunity of jurors to actions brought by people injured by a wrongful verdict was established in a case called Floyd v Barker, where it was held that a writ for conspiracy could not be issued against a juror from someone indicted but later acquitted.

But jurors who reach their verdicts capriciously — by determining their verdicts by lot or by tossing a coin — commit an offence. A judge faced with a potentially biased jury — for instance, on racial grounds — has three options: to give further directions to the jury; to discharge up to three jurors from the 12 and to allow the trial to continue with the remainder, or to discharge the entire jury and order a retrial before a fresh panel.

Majority verdicts were introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 1967 and are acceptable where there are no fewer than 11 jurors and 10 of them agree, or where there are 10 jurors and nine agree.

Where a jury has reached a guilty verdict on the basis of a majority decision, the Juries Act 1974 requires the foreman of the jury to state in open court the number who agreed and disagreed.

☐ Judge Cooray, who was appointed Britain's second only black circuit judge in 1991, was in the news once before when he was criticised for constantly interrupting during a criminal trial.

The then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, in an appeal in 1993 by a man imprisoned for seven years for a drug offence, said that Judge Cooray had continually interrupted counsel and the defendant. There had been more than 90 separate interventions, he said. "Judges should remember that most people go into the witness box ... in a state of nervousness." Defendants expected to receive a courteous hearing.

MPs 'must go'

Continued from page 1

credibility of the Prime Minister and the party."

The rare intervention in the political debate by Mr Branson, who has no plans to endorse any party in the run-up to polling day, will dismay the Tory high command.

The letter came two weeks after Mr Branson met leading Greek politicians in Athens and argued that British politicians could be trusted not to take bribes, which had not always seemed so in the rest of Europe.

He wrote: "When I returned home — to my embarrassment — it seemed that some British politicians may have behaved not a lot better.

"Even at this late stage surely the constituencies in question should change their candidates for the next election — there are many young keen and forthright people who would like to ... serve their country."

Mr Branson said: "Until the extraordinary revelations of the last few days I have always been proud of the fact that Britain is a very special country where favours could not be bought.

"Both these individuals should step down now. There should be no question of their constituency parties trying to support them. This episode has been one of the most demoralising factors in terms of the way the public regard politicians."

Race chiefs maintain legal threat against Armed Forces

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Ministry of Defence was given an official warning yesterday that it had failed to do enough to improve racial equality, and would face legal action unless significant progress was made in a year.

The warning from the Commission for Racial Equality followed a year of monitoring attempts to eliminate discrimination in the Armed Services. After a meeting yesterday, the commission said that it would suspend for another year a decision on whether to serve a non-discrimination notice on the MoD, which would place the ministry under a legally enforceable obligation to carry out specific measures under the Race Relations Act.

However, the commission said that it was dissatisfied with the degree of progress "primarily in those areas which give a measure of the levels of commitment and willingness to change attitudes and practice".

When the CRE had agreed to suspend serving a non-discrimination notice 12 months ago, it drew up a five-year action plan. Christopher Boothman, the CRE legal director, said there had been "no discernible sense of urgency" to face up to the problems. The commissioners could not ignore "highly disturbing" evidence of the "pervasive, long-running and deeply entrenched problem of racism" in a report by the Office for Public Management.

☐ Angela Sirdar, 31, a former Army chef denied a transfer to the Royal Marines during defence cuts, lost a claim at an industrial tribunal in Norwich. The Marines said recruits had to be capable of being front-line commandos.

Albanians take asylum claim to High Court

Seven asylum-seekers have brought a test case in the High Court claiming that thousands of Albanians who live under Serb rule in the former Yugoslavia and fear ethnic cleansing have a right to political asylum in Britain. The case follows an Immigration Appeal Tribunal decision last July which held that Belgrade did have "a system or policy" for targeting Albanians.

Lawyers said the immigration authorities had adopted a "ludicrous" policy where each case had to be heard individually, costing the taxpayer millions in unnecessary legal aid. Mr Justice Hidden reserved judgment.

Arms challenge

Mr Justice Laws, sitting in the High Court, refused permission for campaign groups to seek a judicial review of the Government decision to allow arms sales to Indonesia. He said the complaint could only be "properly ventilated in the political field".

Leaders on TV

Leaders of the three main political parties have agreed to be questioned by a studio audience of 500 on ITV on April 28. They will not face each other in a head-to-head confrontation. Negotiations for a full televison debate continue.

Girl's reprieve

Whitney Forrester, 7, who was due to be removed from her family and sent to an orphanage in Jamaica, was granted an eleventh-hour reprieve. He removal was postponed until April 4 after Jamaican authorities requested further information.

Loyalist death

A former Presbyterian minister, the Rev David Templeton, has died six weeks after loyalist terrorists burst into his house in Belfast and beat him with nail-studded cudgels as a "punishment" for allegedly importing pornographic videos.

Bail for father

Sion Jenkins, 39, the foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins, 13, is to be released on bail after spending 11 days in Lewes prison charged with her murder. He is expected to be released today after a hearing at Lewes Crown Court yesterday.

Conwoman jailed

Elda Beguinua, 52, who tried to pull off a £16 trillion bank fraud was jailed for two years yesterday at Southwark Crown court. After the case, police revealed that she was already a millionairess as a result of previous scams for which she was not charged.

Stretcher honour

A woman who is bedridden with with the bone disorder osteosclerosis attended a Buckingham Palace investiture on a stretcher. Sue Burns, 51, was appointed MBE in the New Year Honours for her work on behalf of fellow sufferers.

Tax return

A man who paid his council tax on time has won a new car from his local authority. Lambeth council, in south London, also offered cash prizes to encourage people to pay promptly. Anyone who paid in advance was eligible to enter the draw.

CORRECTION

The Archbishop of Canterbury asks us to make clear that he did not say that cohabiting couples were "living in shame" as a headline on a report yesterday implied. His point was to remind people that there are moral values worth espousing.

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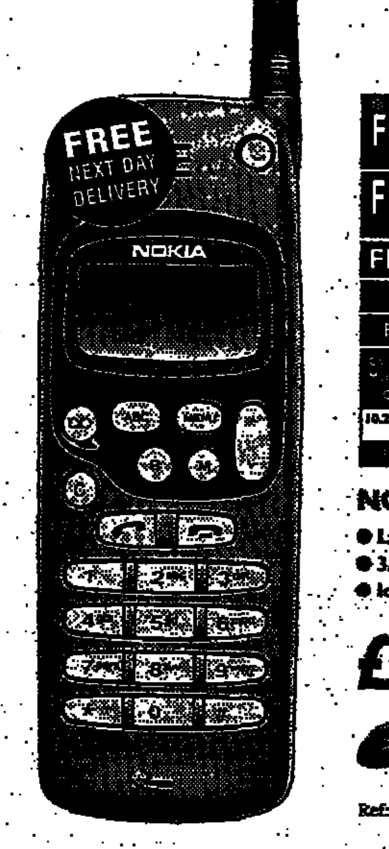

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The night that Hollywood lost the plot

Awards leave big names out of the picture

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES AND DALYA ALBERGE

EVERYONE in Hollywood was scripting their own plot for the Oscar results yesterday. Some said they were a victory for little-known stars over big names. Or a victory for independent ideas over the big studios. Or a victory for the British over everyone else.

Anthony Minghella, from Ryde, who won best director for *The English Patient*, had even announced from the stage: "This is a great day for the Isle Of Wight."

It was, above all, a night of triumph for *The English Patient*. The "intimate epic" of passion and betrayal in the war-torn Mediterranean all but swept the board, spearheading an outsiders' invasion of Hollywood by winning nine awards — including Best Picture — from 12 nominations. It also won a brace of Oscars for technical achievement and Best Supporting Actress for Juliette Binoche, who said that she thought Lauren Bacall deserved it more.

Ralph Fiennes, *The English Patient* star who interrupted a West End theatre run to fly in for the big night, was beaten to the Oscar for Best Actor — along with Tom Cruise — by Australia's Geoffrey Rush, who played the troubled pianist David Helfgott in *Shine*. In his acceptance speech, Rush hit at music critics who have called Helfgott's current US concert tour a "circus". A circus, Rush said, was a place for risk-taking and inspiration. Helfgott then ran on to tumultuous applause to play *The Flight of The Bumble Bee*.

Saul Zaentz, producer of *The English Patient*

Kristin Scott Thomas wore a fixed smile after missing the Best Actress award, which went to Frances McDormand, the memorable pregnant policewoman in *Fargo*, an American film with British backing.

Just being nominated was "a fantastic way to punctuate the whole story" of *The English Patient*'s success, said Scott Thomas on her way into a lavish post-Oscar party at the Mondrian hotel, for which she wore a strikingly low-cut black taffeta gown by Christian Lacroix. She admitted: "Of course, I'm disappointed."

Tim Bevan of Working Title, the British company behind *Fargo*, expressed delight at a second husband-and-wife success. Last year the company had a winner with *Dead Man Walking*, when Tim Robbins directed wife Susan Sarandon in an Oscar-winning performance. This year Joel Coen directed his wife, Frances, to the same award.

Lord Lloyd-Webber and Sir Tim Rice collected statuettes for *You Must Love Me*, the night's only prize for *Evita*. Madonna had performed the song earlier in the ceremony, but Sir Tim described himself as "a bit detached from it", since he wrote the lyrics nearly 20 years ago. Lord Lloyd-Webber joked: "Thank heavens there wasn't a song in *The English Patient*."

Britain's other awards went to the composer Rachel Portman for her score for *Emma* and to Stuart Craig and Stephenie McMillan for art direction in *The English Patient*, now one of the most honoured films in Hollywood history and the first since *The Last Emperor* in 1988 to win nine Oscars. Ben Hur (1959) holds the record with 11.

"It was the best possible outcome; far better than I could have imagined and a tremendous shot in the arm for independent film-making," said an effusive Minghella as he toured the party circuit on Monday night with his wife and two children, Max, 11, and Amanda, who was also celebrating her 18th birthday.

Fears that the 69th Oscars might not attract a mass TV audience because of its less-known prize-hunters proved unfounded. There was poignance when Mohammed Ali and George Foreman, sitting 2ft apart, rose to acknowledge the Oscar for *When We Were Kings*, a documentary on their 1970s "Rumble in the Jungle" title fight in Zaire. Supported by the man he beat, Ali defied Parkinson's disease to take the podium for an ovation.

☐ *The English Patient* is inspiring so many people to read the book that its Canadian author Michael Ondaatje is estimated to have made more than £500,000 in royalties. Nearly 500,000 paperbacks have been sold — 180,000 in the past three weeks.

Juliette Binoche won the award for Best Supporting Actress, defeating Lauren Bacall

THE WINNERS

Best picture: *The English Patient*

Actor: Geoffrey Rush, *Shine*

Actress: Frances McDormand, *Fargo*

Supporting actor: Cuba Gooding Jr, *Jerry Maguire*

Supporting actress: Juliette Binoche, *The English Patient*

Director: Anthony Minghella, *The English Patient*

Foreign film: *Kolya*, Czech Republic

Screenplay (based on material previously produced or published): Billy Bob Thornton, *Sling Blade*

Screenplay (written directly for the screen): Ethan Coen and Joel Coen, *Fargo*

Art direction: *The English Patient*

Cinematography: *The English Patient*

Sound: *The English Patient*

Sound effects editing: *The Ghost and the Darkness*

Original musical or comedy score: *Emma*, Rachel Portman

Original dramatic score: *The English Patient*, Gabriel Yared

Original song: *You Must Love Me* from *Evita*, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice

Costume: *The English Patient*

Documentary feature: *When We Were Kings*

Music score: Rachel Portman

Documentary (short subject): *Breathing Lessons: The Life and Work of Mark O'Brien*

Film editing: *The English Patient*

Makeup: *The Nutty Professor*

Animated short films: *Quest*

Live action short film: *Dear Diary*

Visual effects: *Independence Day*

Oscar winners previously announced this year:

Irving G. Thalberg memorial award: Saul Zaentz, producer

Honorary award: Michael Kidd, choreographer

Scientific and technical Oscar: Imax Corp. for its large-format movies

A British film? No, you will just have to be patient

Success for The English Patient is not a rebirth for the British film industry, writes ***Geoff Brown****, our film critic*

THE main character is Hungarian, the source material Canadian. The director is British, as are the lead actors: but the technicians fly the flags of all nations and the financing comes from America. Nothing was shot on British soil. This is *The English Patient*.

The film's victory at the Oscars tells us much about the predilection of the Academy voters. They like visually ravishing romantic epics with a European flavour. They disdain popcorn cinema. And who can blame them? In a year when characters have been trampled more than ever by aliens, tornadoes and computer effects, how refreshing to dally in the desert with Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas.

But what do the film's nine Oscars mean for the British film industry? In truth, there is no British film industry — there has not been one since the studio system and its regular supply of product collapsed nearly 30 years ago. *The English Patient* proves it. To make a film of this magnitude, the director Anthony Minghella and his other winners had to embrace an American producer, Saul Zaentz, and journey abroad.

Lottery money may help fuse our disparate film ventures into an industry again, but that lies in the uncertain future. For the moment, if you make films here — British films, not Hollywood product in disguise — they are small-scale, domestic offerings, often shaped by television money. Films such as Film Four International's *Secrets and Lies*, by Mike Leigh. It was nominated for five Oscars, from Best Film downwards, but received none. If it had won, British cinema could claim a real victory. It would signal that parochial material, full of modern British phobias, repressions and class conflicts, could reach hearts and minds overseas.

Minghella's epic offers sweeping camerawork, lustrous desert landscapes and the battleground of the Second World War. The crux of Leigh's drama lies with two people talking in a cafe near Holborn. For the Academy voters, there was no contest.

Yet the results give us enough reason to beat our own drum. If we cannot cherish our film talents properly at home, we certainly do a wonderful job of training them and offering them up to the world. The production designer Stuart Craig, awarded an Oscar for *The English Patient*, is one of the world's very best in a field where British craftsmen have always excelled; this is his third win, following *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Gandhi*.

Recognition for Rachel Portman, for her music for *Emma*, has been longer in coming, though connoisseurs have always appreciated the colour and dramatic support her lilting scores gave to American films such as *Used People* and *Only You*.

In 1982, Colin Welland said "the British are coming" as he collected his script Oscar for *Chariots of Fire*. But the British are always coming. Down the decades, we have given Hollywood Chaplin, Hitchcock, Ronald Colman, and too many others to list, plus those ace scriptwriters Jane Austen and William Shakespeare.

Now we have offered up Anthony Minghella as the heir apparent of David Lean. He is being inundated with scripts, some of which he might shoot in this country. His win should be savoured, but it leaves our "film industry" in much the same state as before.

Musical cameo roles for Minghella's aunt Bessie, left, and his mother Gloria

Isle of Wight celebrates

Continued from page 1

thing back to the island which has given me so much," he said. "A lot of the way I think and feel about life comes from growing up there."

At the Medina Theatre in Newport, where *The English Patient* is showing, all last night's tickets were sold. David Holder, box office manager, said: "We have been turning people away — it's been booked solid every night — all 425 seats. Everyone on the island is pleased and says how wonderful that such a classy film should have been made by someone who came from this community."

Brian and Lorna Braiding were among those with tickets last night. "I'm really looking forward to seeing this," said Mr Braiding. "It makes it even better that *The English Patient* was made by someone from here — it has given this community quite a boost."

Last night Morris Barton, the council leader, who is on an exchange visit to Virginia, said: "News of Anthony's Oscar awards has been a tremendous filip for us in boosting the Isle of Wight.

"It could not have been timed better and we now expect thousands of Americans to visit Minghella country. He has put the Isle of Wight on the world map."

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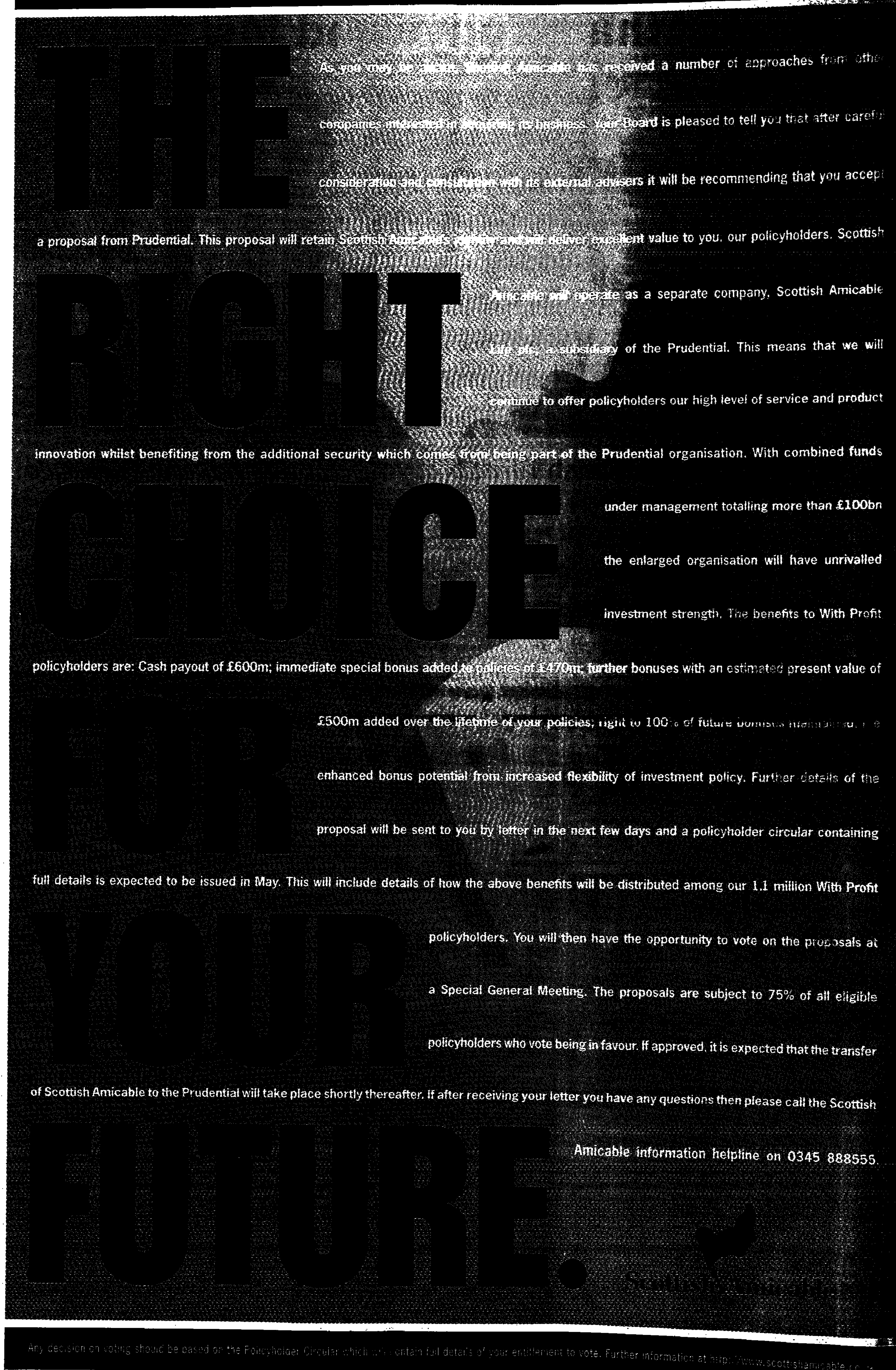

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Any decision on voting should be based on the Policyholder Circular which will contain full details of your entitlement to vote. Further information at http://www.scottishamicable.co.uk

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You are a very dangerous woman, judge tells teenager who killed when she was 12

Youngest female murderer jailed for stabbing

By Daniel McGrory

BRITAIN'S youngest female murderer was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure yesterday after being found guilty of killing a woman when she was just 12.

Sharon Carr, now aged 17, stabbed 18-year-old hairdresser Katie Rackliff to death, a jury at Winchester Crown Court decided. The judge said it was in the public interest to name Carr, whose identity had not been revealed at the trial, and told her as he passed sentence: "You are a very dangerous young woman."

There were gasps of relief from Miss Rackliff's parents, who had sat in the public gallery of the packed courtroom as the verdict was announced. Her father, Joe, raised his arms above his head. Detectives will now interview Carr again in an attempt to find out who she was with on the night of the killing.

Carr looked as though she had fainted as the jury of seven men and five women returned their guilty verdict after six hours of deliberation. She sat slumped in her seat as her defence counsel handed her a glass of water. But by the time her previous convictions were being read out the heavily built teenager stood smiling in the dock.

Outside the court Mr Rackliff stood with his wife, Helen, and his daughter Joanne, and told how he believed Carr deserved capital punishment and that he wished she would "rot in hell". He said the family were still distressed that others involved had not yet been caught.

The family had listened to evidence of how their daughter's body was found with multiple stab wounds near a cemetery at Farnborough, Hampshire, on June 7, 1992. She was last seen leaving Ragamuffins nightclub, where she had made an unsuccessful attempt at a reconciliation with her boyfriend. Staff remember "she seemed the worse for wear".

Her half-naked body was found four miles away five hours later. The murder inquiry was one of the most intensive ever mounted by Hampshire police but they had no idea of Carr's involvement until her confession to a prison warder to whom she was sexually attracted.

During questioning she gave three different accounts of the night she killed Miss Rackliff, naming two boys. Police say they had nothing to do with the murder.

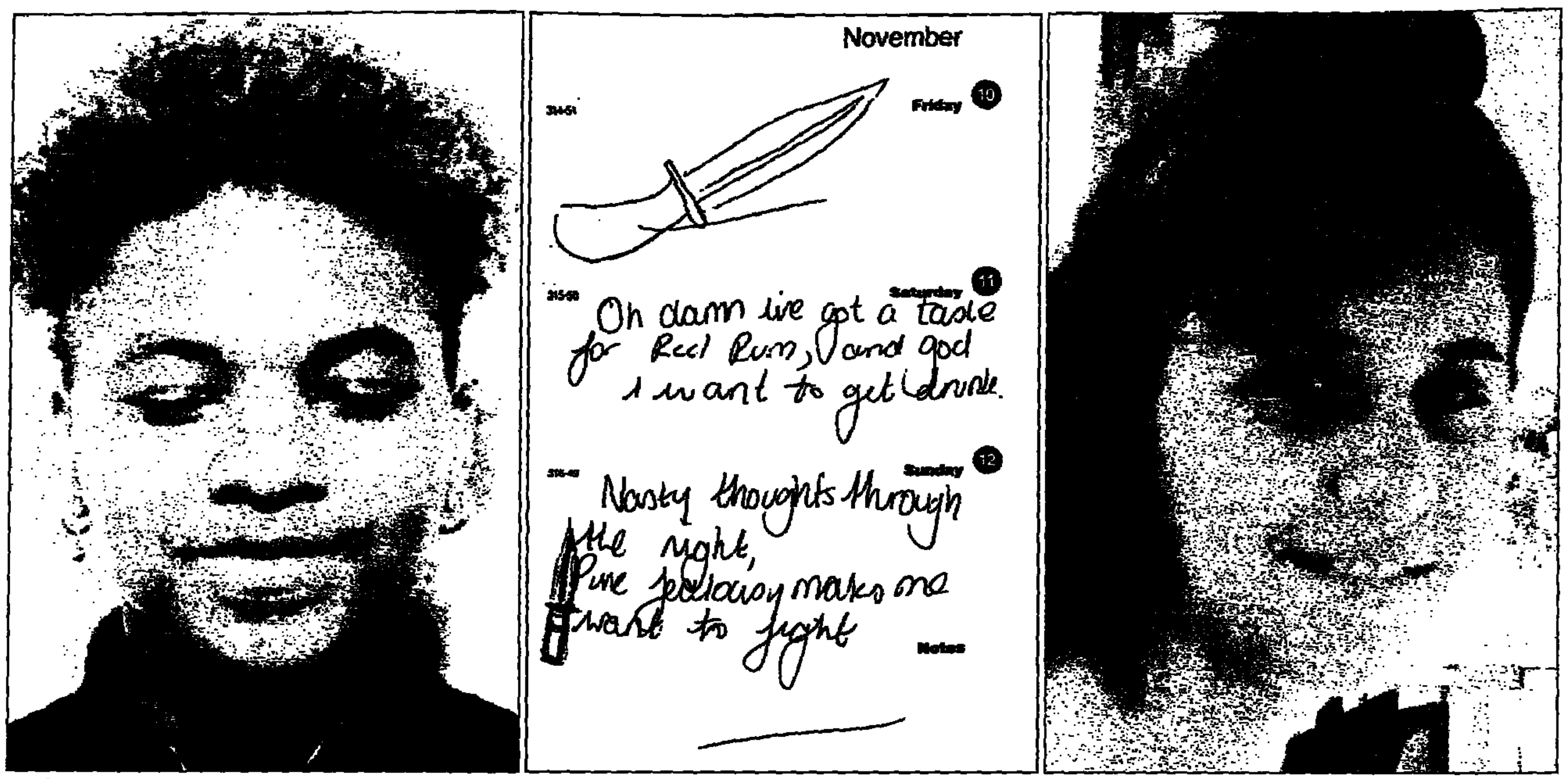
Carr had claimed Miss Rackliff tried to entice the boys away from her. Then she claimed she killed the attractive blonde hairdresser after the boys had raped her.

She later retracted all these stories but the jury heard how she gave away three crucial pieces of evidence that only the killer could have known.

She had detailed knowledge of Miss Rackliff's stolen bracelet, details of the scene of the crime and her admission how she had molested the victim after stabbing her at least 32 times with a seven-inch knife. Miss Rackliff suffered wounds to her heart, liver, lungs and stomach, and her private parts had been mutilated. The court also heard extracts from Carr's diaries and letters, in which she described the killing in gruesome detail. Tape recordings were played of her interviews with the police, in which she tells of Miss Rackliff's screams.

In her diary Carr said she decided to have "a payback life" because nobody had listened to her problems. She picked Miss Rackliff as a victim because "I needed to overcome her beauty, her serenity, her security".

In November 1995 she wrote: "Killing did me good. Now I know what I am capable of and I will do it again." Mr Justice Scott Barr told her: "What is clear is that you had a sexual motive for this killing and it is apparent both from the brutal manner in which you mutilated her body and chilling entries in your diary recording what you had done, that killing, as you put it, turns you on."



November

Friday 10

Saturday 11

Oh damn ive got a taste
for Red Rum, and god
I want to get drunk.

Sunday 12

Nasty thoughts through
the night,
Pure jealousy makes me
want to fight

Notes

Sharon Carr's secret diaries contained pictures of knives, her grievances at society, and details of her feelings of sexual gratification at the murder of Katie Rackliff, right

Girl who thought she was a 'natural born killer'

By Daniel McGrory

THE diaries of Sharon Carr revealed how a precocious schoolgirl thought of herself as a "natural born killer" who murdered one girl, stabbed another and tried to strangle two more women.

For three years she had kept the secret of how she mutilated and molested Katie Rackliff, an 18-year-old hairdresser, though she recorded in explicit detail the sexual gratification the killing gave her.

Carr, who was born in Belize, was caught only because she boasted about her crime to a woman prison officer, Annette Cini, whom she wanted to impress sexually. She was then at Bullwood Hall young offenders' institute after being convicted of stabbing a girl at Collingwood School in Camberley, Surrey, where teachers remember her as being a "polite, helpful and above-average student".

Susan Carpenter, the vice-principal, said: "She had lots of older friends, boys and girls. A lot of the staff liked her, they found her very refreshing." She was describing a girl who by then had killed Katie Rackcliff by stabbing her 32 times. Some of the blows were so powerful the knife went right through the victim's body.

Mrs Carpenter believed it was after Carr had problems at home, with her parents separating, that she became aggressive and an attention-seeker who used her physical strength to bully other girls. In June 1994 — almost two years to the day after Katie Rackcliff was killed — Carr stabbed a 13-year-old girl in the back, puncturing a lung. The girl remembers staring at Carr's face: "I could see she was smiling, but she looked angry as well." Carr then pointed the three-inch blade at her victim and threatened to kill her if she told anyone.

It was while she was on remand at the Middlesex Lodge Assessment Centre in Hillingdon that Carr tried to strangle two women staff in separate attacks. In December 1994 she was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm and ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure. Despite hours of questioning by police, probation staff and social workers Carr never breathed a word about the murder.

Staff at Bullwood Hall encourage juvenile offenders "to confront their past" in discussion groups but it was Carr's "crush" on Miss Cini that motivated her to break her long silence.

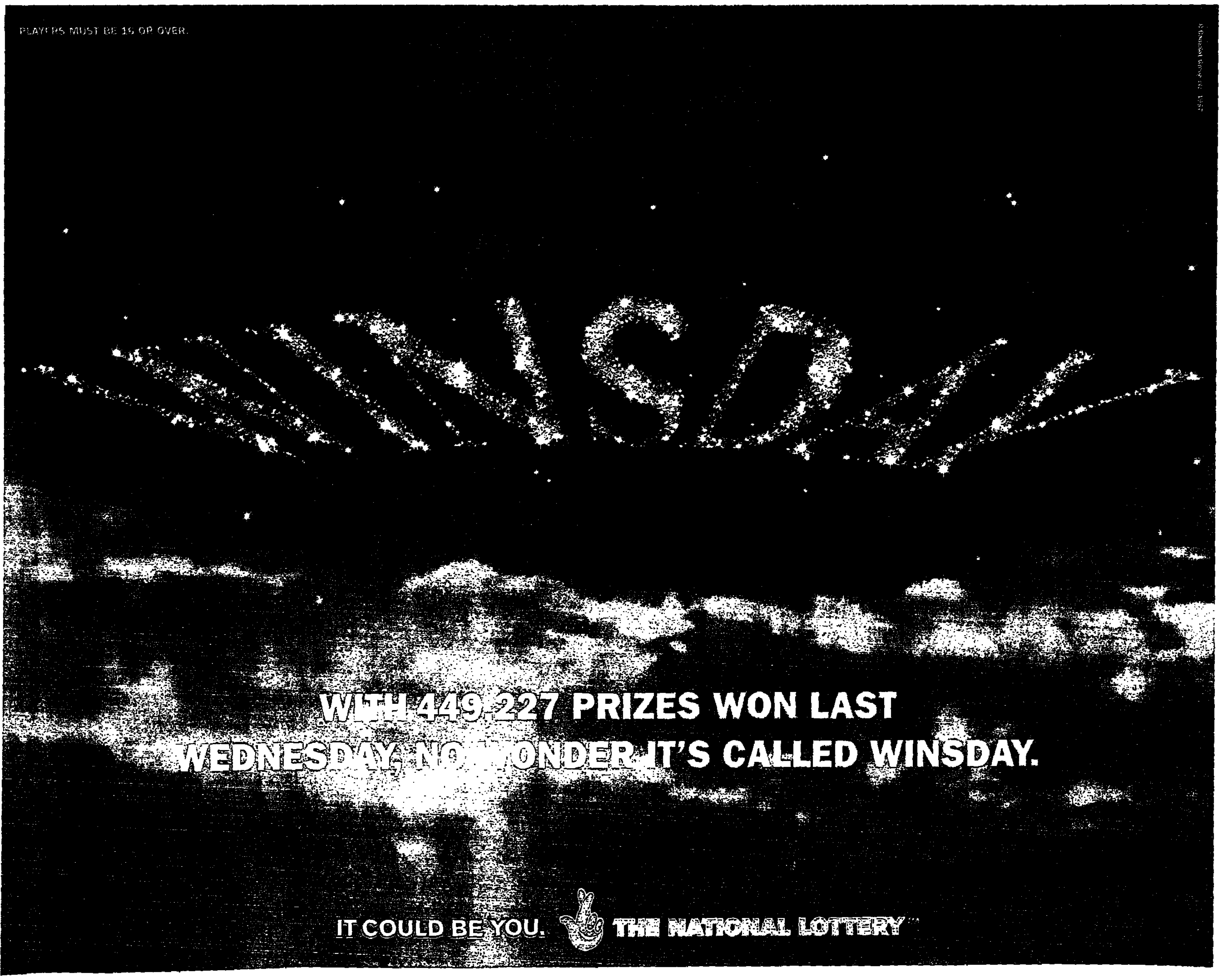
In the loft of her home in Camberley police found a scrap of paper on which she had written: "I'm a killer: killing is my business and business is good." In letters to a friend she wrote: "I swear I was born to be a murderer" and boasted how she had "a heart of terror".

Diaries and poems contained graphic descriptions of how Katie's murder both thrilled and haunted her. One entry recorded how "I enjoyed putting the blade up her, it made me feel powerful".

On January 13, 1995, she wrote "Remember KR. Oh God she did get me going so hot, pity really. I think about it and my head is spinning but against the cops I'm winning." Carr told staff at Bullwood that she regretted never knowing her real father, who left her mother, Maria, shortly after she was born. She came to Britain when her mother married a soldier serving in Belize.

Since her first conviction Carr has been held at a number of young offenders' units but in January this year she was sent to Holloway Prison. A leading criminal psychologist, Professor Gordon Tressler, said he found it "very difficult to understand" the killing and had failed to find any precedents for it.

He described her as an "extremely dangerous person because she is clearly prepared to kill without an adequate motive". "That makes her conduct very unpredictable and very dangerous," he said.



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Campaigners save Marconi Collection for Science Museum

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE Marconi Collection of historic items from the earliest days of radio is to be given to the Science Museum after a U-turn by the electronics firm GEC-Marconi, which originally planned to auction it.

The sale of 1,000 items of equipment and archives relating to Guglielmo Marconi's development of the invention was halted after protests, including one from Marconi's daughter, Princess Elettra Marconi, which appeared in *The Times*.

The auction was abandoned a month ago and the results of the negotiations, announced yesterday by the company, have resulted in a complete success for those opposed to the break-up of the collection. The Princess said it was "wonderful news".

"This is the best thing that could happen," she said from her home in Rome. "It's a wonderful day to think that the whole collection is saved and will remain in England."

The Science Museum, which will take responsibility for the long-term conservation of the 250 items of equipment and the 750 letters or documents, will lend many items for display in Chelmsford, where Marconi set up the first radio factory in the world. The borough council is planning to set up a science discovery centre and is hoping for money from the lottery fund.

Marconi's daughter wrote to *The Times*

Saving Marconi archive for nation

From Mrs Elettra Marconi

Sir, I was appalled to read in *The Times* that the archives of the Chelms- [illegible]

[illegible] other people will take up the challenge to ensure these archives are not dispersed.

Yours faithfully,
ELETTRA MARCONI,
Via Condotti 11, Rome 00187.
February 9.

The papers will go to the Essex County Council archive, where they will be available to scholars.

Sir Geoffrey Pattie, chairman of GEC-Marconi, said that the company was "absolutely delighted" to have come to an agreement with the Science Museum. He said that, before deciding on the sale, the company had looked at the options available for preserving the collection, but had not made much progress.

Since the sale had been announced, he said, the company had received constructive proposals from the Science Museum and Chelmsford Borough Council: "Once we had those possibilities, the whole scene opened up."

The company originally valued the collection at £1 million, now revised to £3 million. The proceedings of the sale were to be used to fund "Marconi Days" for teachers, organised by the Institution of Electronic Engineers and designed to raise their skills in electronics. Now GEC-Marconi will fund the initiative from other resources.

The items in the collection date back a century to when Marconi arrived in Britain from Italy with the aim of making radio communication a reality. He did so with the help of the Post Office, later founding the company that still bears his name.

John Sutherland, a former managing director of Marconi Radar whose letter to *The Times* protesting about the sale was instrumental in rallying opposition, said yesterday: "I'm absolutely delighted. This is an excellent decision from which everyone will benefit: the public, the Science Museum, Chelmsford and the good name of GEC-Marconi. No recriminations — this is the right thing to do and I'm very pleased."

Pilots' wings may be clipped after aerobatics cause high death toll

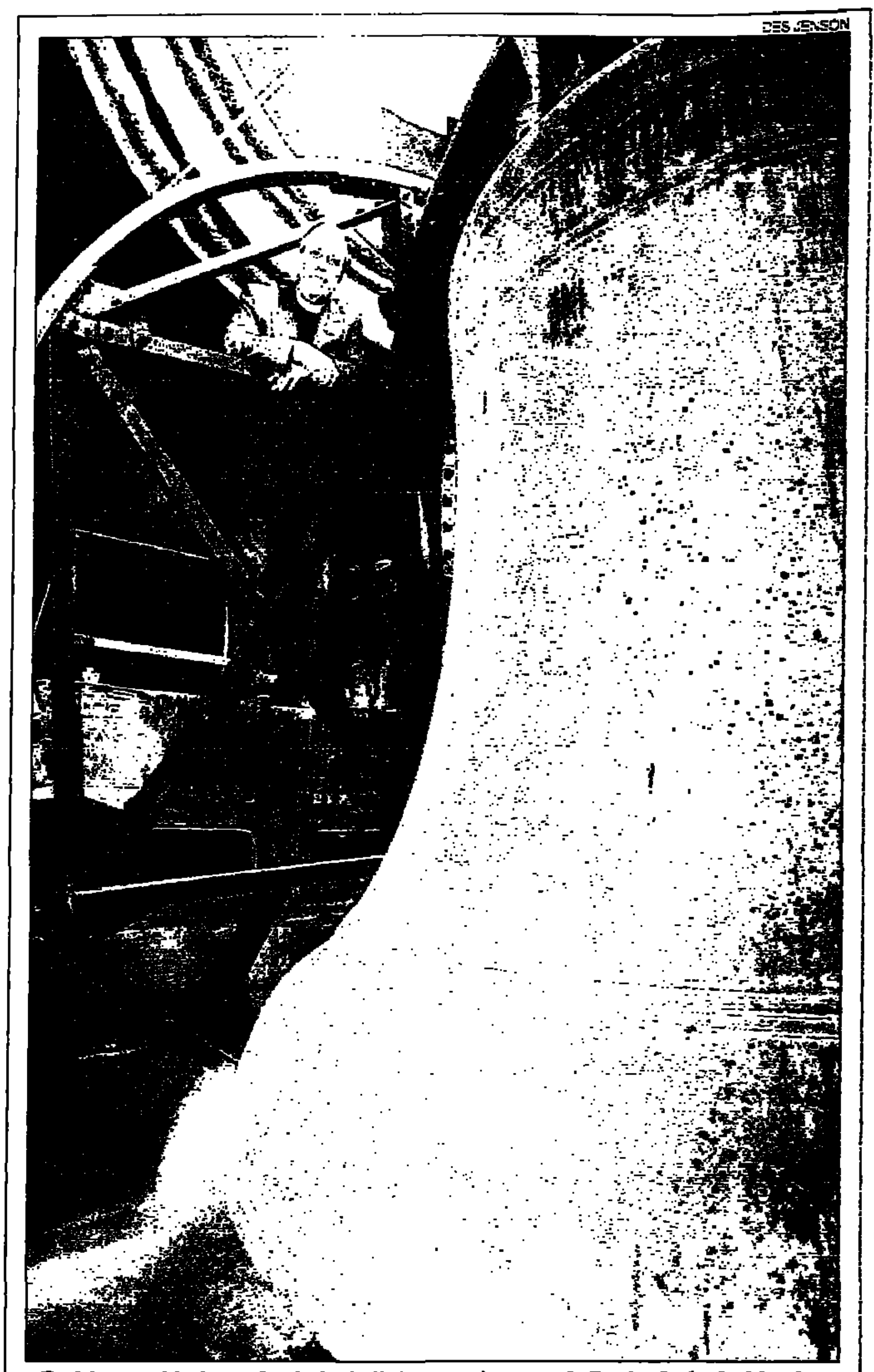
PILOTS of light aircraft may be banned from performing aerobatics after new figures showed human error was to blame for recent fatal crashes. The Civil Aviation Authority said yesterday that ill-judged low-altitude aerobatics were responsible for nearly one in five fatal accidents in 1985-94.

The CAA recommends that private-pilot licence holders be banned from performing solo aerobatics until they earn a special aerobatic rating. Pilots will have to attend special training and have a proficiency check every two years.

The training syllabus for flying instructors should be reviewed, particularly in respect of navigation and weather training, the CAA added.

A report showed there were 166 fatal accidents involving light aircraft and helicopters between 1985 and 94, with 234 people killed in fixed-wing aircraft and 46 in helicopters. The CAA said the three-year moving average of accidents over the ten years had fallen, but added: "Most of the more recent accidents, caused in the main by human error, could have been avoided."

At present, private pilot licence holders can continue to fly without any proficiency check providing they fly for at least five hours every 13 months. The CAA said it would also "review the availability, clarity and layout of all information necessary in the United Kingdom for safe and legal general aviation [light aircraft] flying".



DES JENSON

Dr Moses with Great Paul, the bell that was hung at St Paul's Cathedral in 1882

Lunch bell will ring out over City once again

BRITAIN'S largest bell has been restored and will chime at 1pm today at St Paul's Cathedral for the first time since 1991. Great Paul, the 17-ton bell that used to summon City apprentices back from lunch, has not been heard since the clapper cracked. The bell, cast in 1882 by John Taylors of Loughborough, was repaired by Cast Iron Research of Alvechurch after the law firm Baker and McKenzie, neighbours of St Paul's, stepped in with £10,000 towards the £25,000 cost after reading of the bell's plight in *The Times*. Dr John Moses, Dean of St Paul's, said: "We are delighted that Great Paul will be heard across the City once more."

Go-ahead puts Royal Opera on the road

By Dalya Alberge and Alasdair Steven

PERFORMERS and promoters were breathing sighs of relief yesterday as it emerged that the Arts Council had approved two-year itineraries for the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet, just 16 weeks before the two companies become homeless.

An official announcement is due on Thursday following a board meeting today at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, which is closing for two years for redevelopment. However, sources revealed that the Royal Opera's productions will range from *The Merry Widow* at the Shaftesbury Theatre in London, to Britten's rarely heard *Paul Bunyan* at the East Anglian Opera Festival. The Royal Ballet's schedule will include *Cinderella* at the Royal Festival Hall and a tour of Japan.

The decision means that contracts with singers can be drawn up and venues leased. Long delays have led to confusion, with agents expressing frustration and potential sponsors feeling nervous. The management of the Royal Opera had not been able to book venues and artists until it had the go-ahead from the Arts Council, which in turn would not sanction expenditure until it had a schedule of performances.

Lord Chadlington, new chairman of the Royal Opera House board, told a recent meeting: "The financial situation is very serious. We have an accumulated deficit approaching £3.5 million at the end of the last financial year. In the current year, we are going to increase that. We do not know how much, but certainly by a significant sum. We have got to sort out the finances once and for all."

Immediate plans after the July closure also include short visits to New York's Metropolitan Opera House with the Royal Opera's *Palestrina* and the Royal Ballet's *The Prince of the Pagodas*. American backers will pay travel costs.

The Royal Opera will appear at the Edinburgh Festival and the Barbican Centre in London. The ballet company will perform Tchaikovsky at the Labatts Apollo, Hammersmith.

Connolly: bad language

BBC earns swearing reprimand

The Broadcasting Standards Council has criticised the BBC for the use of "offensive" language after 75 viewers complained about a series presented by the comedian Billy Connolly.

The BBC said that the extracts from Connolly's stage act, which contained the bad language, were integral to *Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia*.

Hanratty delay

The family of James Hanratty, hanged in 1962, are disappointed because the Home Secretary has had no time to consider an appeal plea and has referred the case to the new Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Vote forms forged

Dilys Lewis, 37, was jailed for two months for forging eight proxy voting forms for elections to the new Rhondda Cynon Taff Council in 1995. The former Mid Glamorgan councillor still failed by more than 100 votes to gain a seat.

Towels too hot

Woolworths has had to pulp 250,000 copies of its quarterly magazine *Good Idea!* after a spring-cleaning tip backfired. It suggested sterilising tea towels in a microwave oven but some readers' towels burst into flames.

Drinks hiccup

The Victoria Wine Company is to review its promotions after it offered the Thanet Alcohol Project at Margate, Kent, which helps alcoholics, gift-wrapped bottles and interest-free credit on deliveries of wines and spirits.

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26 1997

Young stars are in a 'dangerous playground', says Sandie Shaw, counsellor

Pop survivor issues health warning to the Spice Girls

The pop star: Sandie Shaw in the Sixties

By Russell Jenkins

POP fame was given a health warning yesterday by the Sixties star Sandie Shaw, in a university conference on the dangers of stress to musicians. Ms Shaw, now 50 and a counsellor, singled out the *Spice Girls* as she talked of the risks in a "dangerous playground".

In an age when even orchestral musicians were reported to be turning to drink and drugs to cope with stress, she advised the pop singers competing for the adulation of teenage fans never to mistake their public images with reality.

Modern pop stars from Oasis to the Spice Girls were forced to undergo the "painful process of growing up in the glare of the spotlight". Citing the deaths of Elvis Presley, Janis Joplin and Kurt Cobain as examples of those who found it impossible to cope with stardom, she said: "Today's stars have a shorter shelf life than ever."

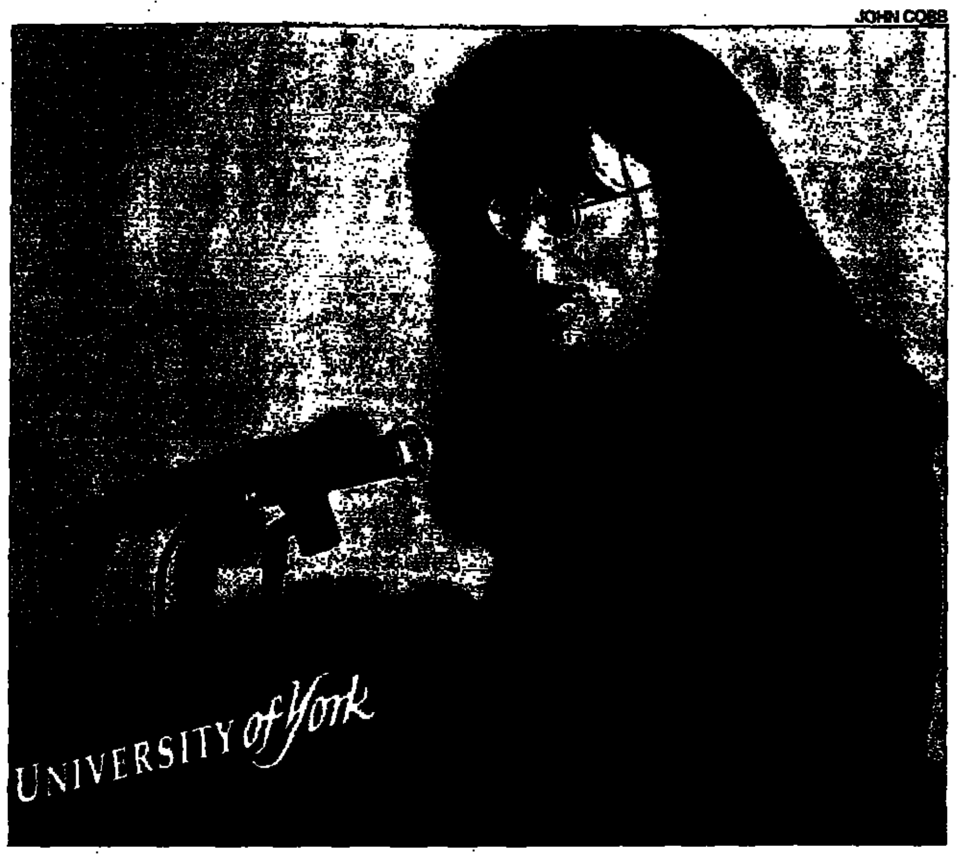
Ms Shaw, from Dagenham, was just 17 when she rose to fame in the swinging London of 1964. Her number-one hits included *There's Always Something There To Remind Me*, *Long Live Love*, and *Puppet on a String*, which won the 1967 Eurovision Song Contest. *Monsieur Dupont* was her last big seller, in 1969, although 15 years later she collaborated with the Smiths on their single *Hand in Glove*. That went to 27 in the charts.

Her trademark gimmick was bare feet. The Spice Girls, who bare rather more, have had four consecutive number-one hits and are currently espousing a "girl power" manifesto.

Speaking to an audience of professional classical musicians at a York University conference organised by the British Association for Performing Arts Medicine Trust, Ms Shaw identified the Spice Girls as the "current symbol of sexual availability and youthful confidence".

Urging artists to avoid burn-out by recognising that their public persona was just a pretence, she said: "Only one person can be top of the pops at any time and pressure is immense to keep on producing hits. Rock stars live a life outside the boundaries and limitations of ordinary mortals. It's a world of craziness, excitement and fun, but it is a dangerous playground."

JOHN COBB



The stress counsellor: Ms Shaw yesterday. She said: "The pressure is immense"

Earlier, the conference was told that the problems facing rock stars could also wreck the lives of classical musicians. An international study of 1,600 professionals in 56 orchestras found that one in five took prescription drugs to calm their nerves before a performance.

The study also discovered that one musician in ten had more than one month off a year through ill health. Others took beta-blockers to slow the heart beat or alcohol to cope with the stress.

Jilly Black, the conference organiser, said that Ms Shaw had been invited to provide a change from the usual talks about classical and jazz music. She added: "Because of her experience, Sandie is the ideal woman to talk about the pressures facing rock musicians, which we feel it is important our delegates know about."

Ms Shaw now concentrates her time on the Arts Clinic, a non-profit-making organisation in London devoted to the psychological well-being of artists, musicians and performers.

She admitted to nerves before her unaccustomed public speaking role, but was accorded an enthusiastic reception by the 200-strong audience. She said later: "It's the first time I've done this, so I was gripping the lectern for dear life. I prefer talking to an audience like this rather than performing because I do not have to play a role.

"Most of the people in the audience came from a classical background where there is a tendency to trivialise rock music, so I was walking a tightrope.

"I prefer counselling to singing, it's much more challenging. I still sing occasionally, but only when people pay me a lot of money to do it."

Older mothers more likely to have triplets

By Dominic Kennedy

TRIPLETS and twins are more common than ever because older mothers are more likely to have multiple births, according to government statistics.

Growing numbers of women are delaying having children until their thirties or even forties because they are more likely to take a degree, find a career and use contraception than previous generations. Many who delay then give birth to two, three or more children — a likelihood which increases with a woman's age.

The number of triplets and larger multiple births increased from 54 in England and Wales in 1938 to 289 in 1995, according to the Office for National Statistics. Twins have increased from 7,400 a year pre-war to 8,700 now.

Although much of the increase is because of fertility treatments, a detailed study published in yesterday's *Population Trends* shows that about a third of the rise is caused by the trend towards older motherhood. The number of women getting pregnant in their late thirties has risen by 67 per cent since 1974, while there has been a decline in pregnancies among those in their twenties. Teenage pregnancy has more than halved over the same period.

A woman in her late thirties is three times as likely to have twins as a teenage mother, and twice as likely as a woman in her early twenties.

With triplets, the figures are even more striking. A woman in her late 30s is 17 times as likely as a teenager, and six times as likely as a woman in her early 20s, to have three or more babies at once.

Mysteriously, the proportion of identical twins is increasing. In 1938, there were three sets of non-identical twins for every pair of identical babies. Now nearly half of all twins are identical. The causes which make identical twins more likely are still unknown to scientists.

[illegible] TO CAREER [illegible]

A leading cancer doctor said an increase in the number of women pursuing careers could be related to the sharp rise in cases of breast cancer. Dr Renella Woll, senior lecturer in clinical oncology at Nottingham University, told the Edinburgh International Science Festival: "Pregnancy seems to protect against breast cancer and, as women are having fewer children and are delaying childbearing until they are in their mid-thirties, that may be one of the reasons this form of cancer is on the increase."

Jockey's grounding after fall preserves grey cells

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

TONY McCOY, the 22-year-old jockey who had hoped to ride Belmont King in the Grand National, was knocked unconscious when his horse fell at Uttoxeter last Tuesday.

When doctors and paramedics study their watches as they gather around an injured jockey they are not only recording their patient's pulse and respiratory rate, but are taking careful note of just how long it is before the rider is able to respond to them, and the depth of his coma.

The time a jockey is unconscious not only gives an indication of brain damage but has considerable professional implications. The Jockey Club lays down that someone unconscious for less than a minute may ride again after seven days; over a minute and they are grounded for at least three weeks. It was eventually agreed, after initial doubts, that McCoy had been unconscious for more than a minute at Uttoxeter, and as a result his 20-1 mount at Aintree will now have to be ridden by someone else. McCoy's brief period of unconsciousness would be classified as concussion, as there was no evidence of any gross injury to the brain and none that, once he had recovered from his tumble, there was any residual damage to the central nervous system.

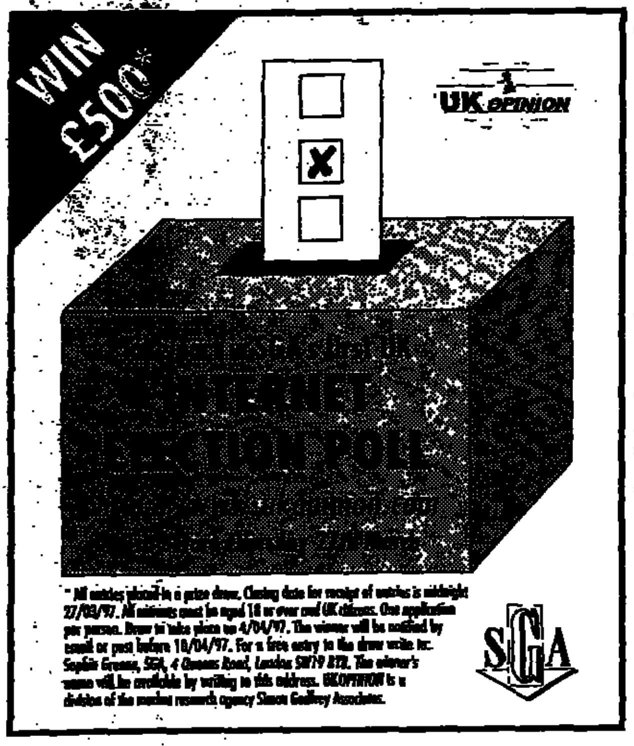
In concussion, much of the harm to the brain is caused by it being shaken about within the cavity of the skull. The consistency of the brain is similar to that of a well-set blancmange and so it is very sensitive to the effects of rapid acceleration or deceleration.

Although modern racing caps and spinal protection have greatly reduced the incidence of neurological injuries suffered by professional riders, X-rays of a jockey's skull often show that they are criss-crossed with old fractures.

More serious head injuries may result in torn blood vessels. At the time of the injury, when shock, pain and concussion may lower the blood pressure, the casualty may soon appear to be fully conscious and little injured. When the blood pressure returns to normal the severed blood vessel bleeds, and the patient may collapse with an intracerebral haemorrhage.

All head injuries, particularly if they have caused even momentary unconsciousness, must be taken seriously. McCoy may well be grateful that the Jockey Club has worried about the preservation of his grey cells.

McCoy: barred from Aintree by tumble



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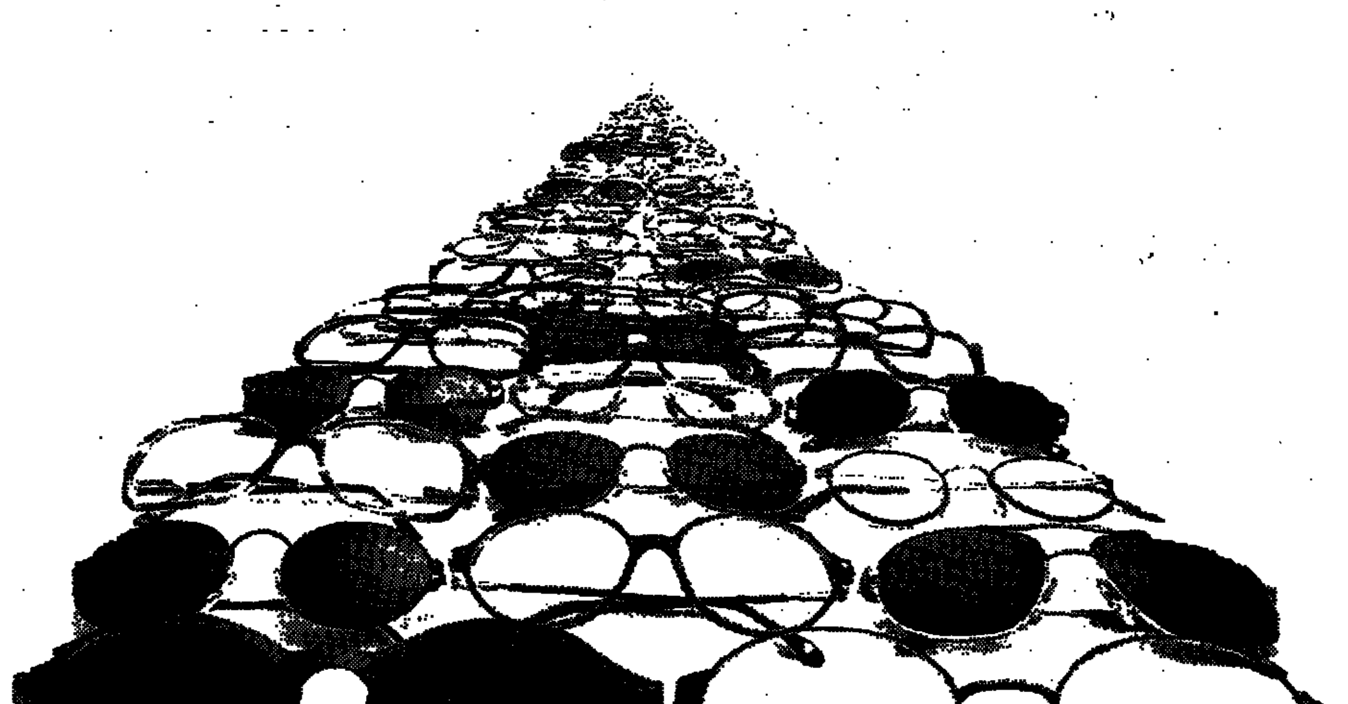

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Guide to the best zoos in Britain in **Weekend**

Omdurman diary tells of the bloody cavalry charge to end them all

By John Vincent

General Thomas Eastwood

IT WAS a bloody flourish at the height of British imperialism — a traditional cavalry charge into the "Infernal Regions": "Frightful slaughter of enemy. Horrible sights of dead and dying. Men on all fours creeping, finally giving up and lying down to die. It seems to be blood, blood, blood everywhere."

So wrote Lieutenant Robert Smyth in a graphic account of bravery and carnage at the battle of Omdurman, nearly a century ago. His diary entry describes a battle in which superior weaponry overcame the fanatical Dervish hordes as the British Army mounted what is generally considered to be its last cavalry charge.

The 30-year-old Smyth, a general's son, led a platoon of the 21st Lancers which bore the brunt of the fighting. He had little sympathy to spare for the enemy. "It is like the Infernal Regions," he wrote in the diary for his sister, Alice. "I never saw anything so disgusting. Crowds of horses and donkeys all died. I believe the Soudanese [sic] raided and slaughtered the night after the battle to a great extent. If I had my way, every man we captured should have been shot at once then and there, cold blooded or not. If you had seen the condition of our dead you would have said the same."

The previously unpublished diary is to be sold tonight at the auction house of Henry Aldridge & Son in Devizes, Wiltshire, along with an archive of material relating to Smyth's nephew, General Thomas Eastwood, a commander in the Second World War. Both are offered by a member of the family. Smyth's gripping account of Omdurman, which confirmed the British reconquest of the Sudan and avenged the death of General Gordon at Khartoum, is expected to fetch around £1,000. His nephew's archive should make considerably more.

Andrew Aldridge, the auctioneer, said yesterday: "Reading Smyth's diary brings a lump to my throat. I could see the battle unfolding before my eyes."

Despite the carnage, Smyth, who survived his wounds to become a much-decorated brigadier-general in the First World War, was proud to have taken part. "Wise or unwise, it was a brave deed nobly done ... it proved that cavalry still existed and that we did not come here to play at mounted infantry."

Earlier he wrote: "Horses lame and galloping aimlessly. Regular inferno. My left-hand man drops, his horse shot under him. Bullets whistling and splashing all around. Every side a compact mass of white-robed men, apparently countless, still firing and waving swords.

"Man bolts out leading two donkeys in my way, catch hold of horse hard by head, knowing to fall would be fatal. Am met by swordsman on foot. Cuts at my right front. I guard it with sword.

"Next, man with fat face, all in white, having fired, missed me, throws up both hands. I cut him across the face. He drops. Large bearded man in blue, with two edged sword, cuts at me. Think this time I must be done for. Duck my head to spear thrown which just misses me. Another cut at my horse but luckily only cuts through my breastplate and gives my horse a small flesh wound. See Major Wyndham running. Gallop to help him. I am just too late."

The battle over, Smyth wrote: "Words are passed on, 'Poor Grenfell killed', '2,000 men', 'Brinton shot' and 'Poor little Smyth killed' etc. (The Colonel, Montmorency, and Dauncey at first mistook Grenfell for me, he was so horribly mutilated)."

He went on: "No mess. No rations ... I was ill and in pain but I got some opium and other medicine and am now feeling all right again."

The diary was written on September 4, 1898, two days after the battle.

The 21st Lancers' battle with the Dervishes at Omdurman conjured up "the Infernal Regions"

History of Russia wins book prize

By Erica Wagner
Literary Editor

ORLANDO FIGES's sweeping historical study, *A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution 1891-1924* (Cape, £25), has beaten such literary contenders as Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace* (Bloomsbury) and Graham Swift's *Last Orders* (Picador) to win the £10,000 1997 W H Smith Literary Award.

Norman Stone, Oxford Professor of Modern History, has described Mr Figes as the leading historian of Russia of his generation. The author, a university lecturer in history and Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge, is the son of the novelist Eva Figes and the brother of the writer Kate Figes.

Mr Figes said yesterday: "History is a part of literature. This seems part of a trend. Quite a lot of historians have picked up prizes for literary endeavours: history is returning to narrative and returning to the general reader. I feel a sense of corporate pride." Hermione Lee's *Virginia Woolf* (Chatto) was the only other non-fiction work on the shortlist. Seamus Deane's *Reading in the Dark* (Cape) and Roddy Doyle's *The Woman Who Walked Into Doors* (Cape) were also on the list.

Hitman parents walk free

By Robin Young

A COUPLE who hired a hitman to beat up their daughter's violent lover walked free from court yesterday.

John Llewellyn, a businessman, and his wife, Maureen, both 50, had described a four-year "living nightmare" after their daughter fell for a schizophrenic. Mrs Llewellyn said: "It was just our love for her that led us to this drastic action."

The couple met Stephen Pellow, a security expert, after their daughter's lover had struck her days after she gave birth. The intended hitman went to the police and the couple, from Michaelstone-y-Fedw, near Newport, were arrested.

Charges of soliciting murder were dropped but Mr Llewellyn admitted soliciting Mr Pellow to commit grievous bodily harm and was given a two-year suspended jail sentence. Mrs Llewellyn admitted soliciting to cause actual bodily harm and was put on probation for two years.

After being released yesterday, the couple hugged outside Swansea Crown Court and said it was the end of "our nightmare". Mr Llewellyn said: "I'm very relieved that the judge has shown compassion. It was terrible seeing our daughter suffer."

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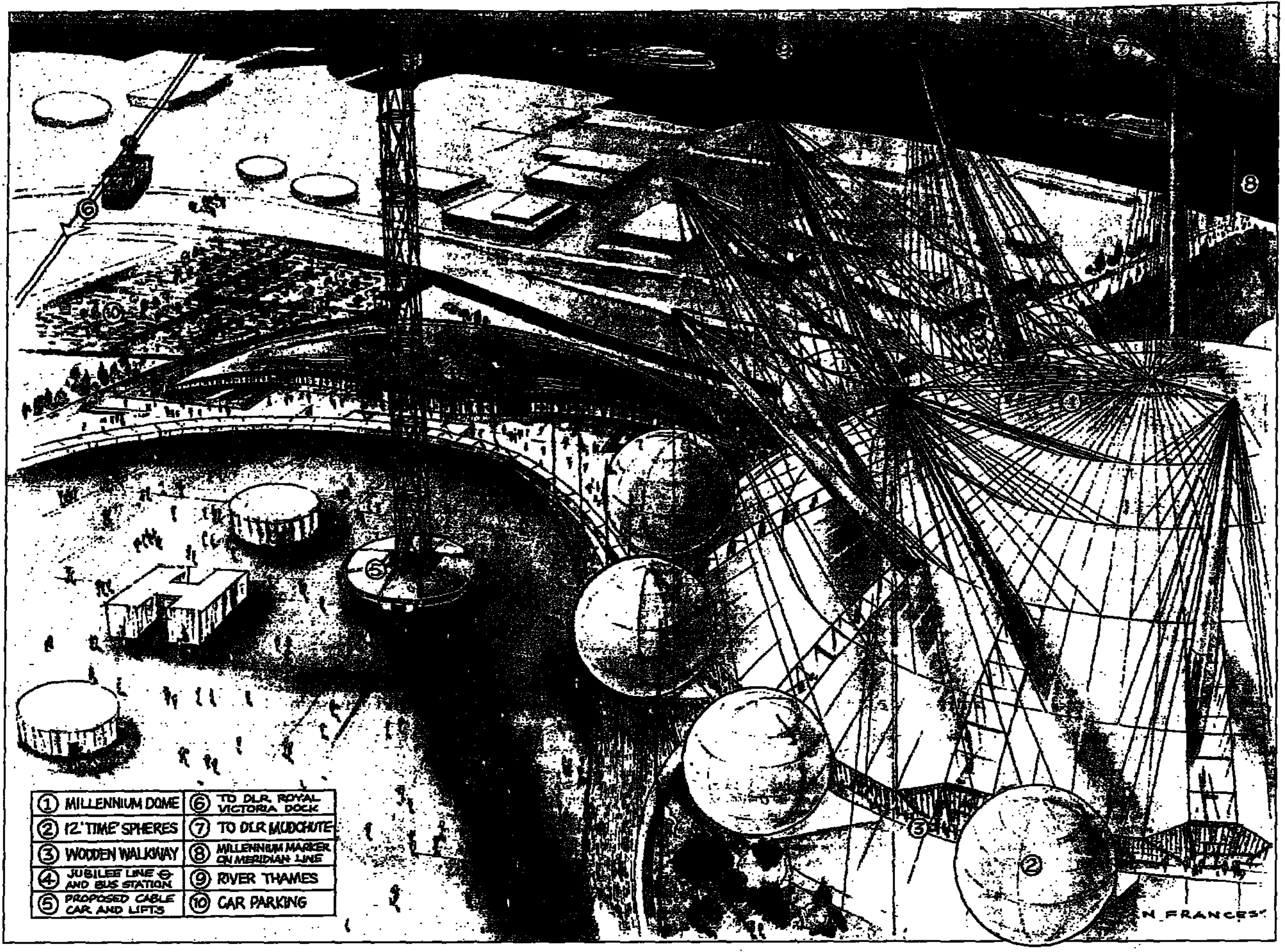
Lottery millions fund construction as big as 13 Albert Halls — but what goes inside remains a mystery

Lift-off for dome starts millennium countdown

By Marcus Binney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⑧ MILLENNIUM MARKER ON MERIDIAN LINE
⑨ RIVER THAMES
⑩ CAR PARKING
N FRANCES

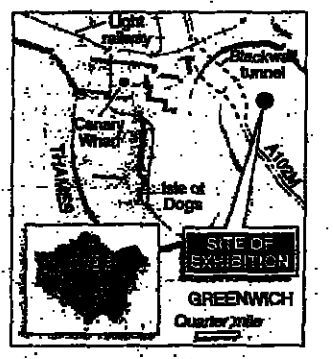
The Millennium Exhibition site at Greenwich features a massive dome, new Underground and bus stations and, possibly, a cable car system spanning the River Thames

ON PAPER, the Millennium Dome looks not unlike a giant whoopee cushion pierced with cocktail sticks. In reality, it will be big enough to take 13 Albert Halls — or 50,000 people. The "cocktail sticks" are steel lattice girders over 100m high, each supporting a forest of tension wires.

Only in the planning application, which has now been approved by Greenwich council, does the stupendous scale of the dome, designed by the Richard Rogers Partnership, become apparent: the dimensions have been expanded so that the diameter measures 360m instead of 320m.

The organisers, renamed Millennium Central, have a firm offer of £200 million of lottery cash, plus a guarantee of £250 million from the Millennium Commission. The latter is subject to reassessment, but not cancellation, by an incoming Labour Government.

The contract for the steel will be signed within the month and McAlpine Laing are on board as construction managers. Debate is still raging about the fabric roof. Greenpeace has objected vigorously to the use of PVC, which it claims is noxious in both manufacture and disposal, producing vast quantities of carcinogenic dioxins. For the organisers, PVC is simply far cheaper than any of the alternatives.



Another problem is what to do with the the dome after the two-year Millennium Exhibition ends. Millennium Central is committed to taking it down unless they can convince English Partnerships, the owners of the site, otherwise. A favoured long-term solution is the creation of a "sports city". The clear floor space is large enough for football, athletics or a velodrome. However, the Sports Council is unlikely to make a commitment until it sees the dome in action.

It also remains to be seen whether the dome can attract sufficient visitors to fuel the revised budget, down from £700 million to £583 million. Initial forecasts were based on an average ticket income of £20 a head from 12 million visitors over two years. The 1994 Seville Expo attracted 52 million visitors but that was an international event and included many repeat visits. The Greenwich exhibition is very definitely a national affair.

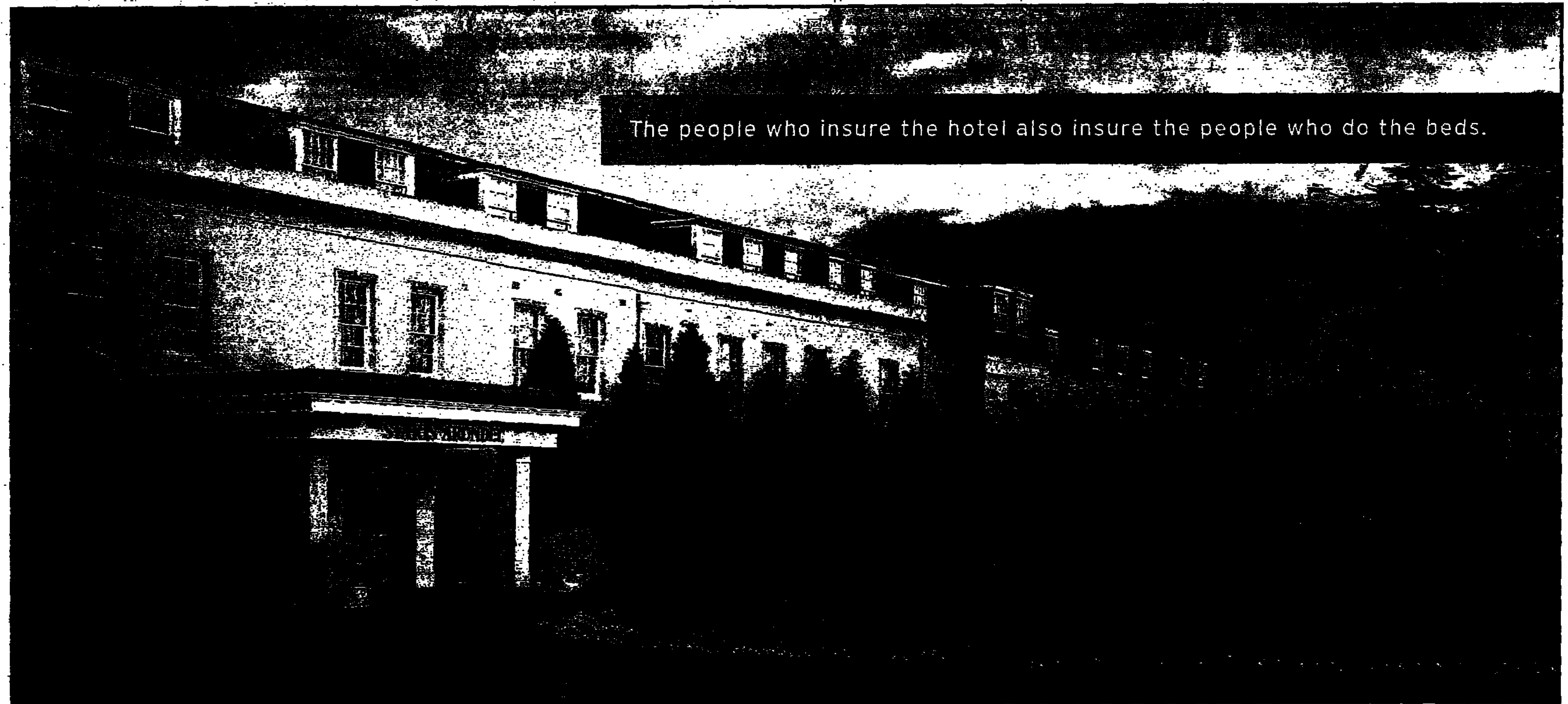
The exhibition designers, Imagination, originally planned that the central theme would be a play on time, but this has a ring of Disney's well-established Epcot in Florida. The main attractions are now likely to be events held under the centre of the dome, in the style of Lloyd-Webber extravaganzas, staged between two to six times a day and lasting an hour to 90 minutes. They will feature such broad themes as spirituality, the young, education and ecology. More events could be held in the plaza outside, possibly including circuses and the Royal Tournament.

A major problem for the organisers is the blasted-heath appearance of the site. There is not a tree to be seen and, capped over beneath the surface, are decades of industrial pollution. With all the building work, there is unlikely to be a blade of grass growing on December 31, 1999, and trees will have to be planted on raised banks to avoid their roots touching poisoned soil.

Although the exhibition is to be car-free, the organisers have conceded that many visitors will arrive by road and nearly half the site is taken up by parking space. The good news is that the Jubilee Line Underground extension, to be opened in September next year, goes into the heart of the site, to a spectacular new underground station by the architect Will Alsop (with a bus station by Sir Norman Foster on top). Tube journey times from Waterloo are 15 minutes, and less from Stratford. London Transport says it can run up to 30 trains an hour in each direction.

A commercially funded cable car system, linking the exhibition site with two Docklands Light Railway stations north of the river, is another possibilty. However, the best way to arrive will be by water. The site has two existing piers which are to be refurbished. Jenny Page, chief executive of Millennium Central, said: "We are looking at park-and-sail at Barking. We'll provide facilities but not subsidies for river boat operators and I'm confident the exhibition will be a long-term boost to river traffic."

The 1,000-day countdown to the Millennium will begin on April 6. While the dome may be on the critical path to completion, the content of the exhibition has still to be decided. The lottery millions are riding on Imagination's Gary Withers, the designer best known for his dramatic floodlighting of the Lloyd's building. The British calendar is packed with ever more successful events and festivals and Mr Withers is well aware that he has to cap them all.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Heseltine revels in the pressures of office

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

Michael Heseltine in his office. "Banging heads together sounds like blood and guts on the floor and I can say clearly that is not my style," he said

THE post of Deputy Prime Minister should never become a formal part of the constitution, Michael Heseltine said last night.

He did not refer to Tony Blair and his relationship with John Prescott, but his target was unmistakable.

"I would not advise a Prime Minister to regard it of right, unless you have that very personal relationship," he said. "It is a job of great potential but it cannot be done if the relationship is not based on mutual trust and respect. If that does not exist I would advise a Prime Minister not to create it."

Mr Heseltine has been Mr Major's official deputy since July 1995, occupying a light and spacious Cabinet Room overlooking the Downing Street garden. The office is hung with paintings from the government art collection, selected by his wife, Anne. It was previously used for conferences and receptions but at 29ft square is short of the size of a tennis court, to which it was likened when Mr Heseltine moved in.

The last time a minister was awarded the seals of office as First Secretary of State was when Barbara Castle was given the honour in 1968-70.

Mr Heseltine's role has been markedly different. He has operated as the Prime Minister's chief troubleshooter in Whitehall, driving through the legislative business and resolving divisions between ministers. He has coordinated the presentation of government policy and acted as a conduit for backbenchers to air their concerns.

"As a committee chairman with the authority of this job I find ways to win colleagues round and get agreement. Banging heads together sounds like blood and guts on the floor and I can say clearly that is not my style."

Mr Heseltine sits on fourteen Cabinet committees, chairs nine and has the authority of the Prime Minister to attend any Cabinet subcommittee he chooses.

When Mr Heseltine arrived at the Cabinet Office he introduced a management system where every member of staff had to justify their position. It is a system he has used in every Cabinet post but one that disappears as soon as he moves department.

He set up the daily strategy meeting to co-ordinate policy and insisted that Whitehall departments feed information into the Cab-E-Net computer system to signal policy announcements, potential problems and issues likely to arise.

The influence Mr Heseltine exerts in government is largely down to the force of his personality and his wide experience in Cabinet. He was sensitive to the political reality of his new post and knew that a resentful Cabinet could block him. But he has won the respect of senior colleagues, who dubbed him the Jacques Chirac of the Government — he can see problems coming.

Today a call from the Deputy Prime Minister's office to another minister has the potential to make waves and is treated seriously by officials and ministers. But Mr Heseltine said: "The only validity of the call to another minister is that people know it is being done with the PM's support. The office would be greatly diminished if it did not carry the PM's authority."

Senior officials in Whitehall believe the very existence of the office in the Cabinet Office has lifted a burden from the Prime Minister. Mr Heseltine however is reticent: "The Prime Minister is a man who draws burdens on himself. He works prodigiously. If I take away some of the load then it is because he fills the gap with other things he wants to do."

Mr Heseltine said that any government would be split at the top if there was not a close personal relationship between the Prime Minister and his deputy.

"You must remember that Cabinet colleagues have clear views and there is always the potential for a row story to sour relationships. That is why you have to have the trust of the PM and the support of colleagues in this role."

A political source said last week: "Mr Heseltine picks up the phone and will ask a senior colleague to come and have a word on something. They do not take exception because he is doing it. It might be a bit different if John Prescott told Robin Cook or Gordon Brown he was a bit worried about something on the *Today* programme."

Redwood supports right to campaign over race

By Adrian Lee
and Arthur Leathley

TORY election candidates should have the right to make immigration a campaign issue, the former Welsh Secretary John Redwood said yesterday.

Speaking in Enoch Powell's former constituency of Wolverhampton South West, he gave his support to the sitting MP, Nicholas Budgen, who believes that Labour will operate a more open policy on immigration and who has threatened to campaign on the issue in defiance of John Major's wishes.

Yesterday Mr Redwood visited a factory in Wolverhampton run by an Asian businessman, John Matto, who supports strict controls on immigration. Mr Redwood said that immigration was bound to become an issue in constituencies where there was a large ethnic population. "It is inevitable if Labour is going to put forward such radical plans that people want to ask questions," he said.

Mr Budgen has been accused of raising fears over immigration to save his career. He is defending a majority of less than 5,000. He said he believed that a Labour government would result in a major influx of Asian males and it was a scandal that Labour would not discuss the issue. "We have not had the rivers of blood [predicted by Mr Powell] because we have had strict immigration controls," he said.

Mr Major, in Birmingham yesterday on the latest leg of his campaign tour, urged his colleagues in the region to avoid making immigration an issue in the run up to the election. The Prime Minister, who was visiting Baverstock School in King's Heath, was pressed over the decision by Mr Budgen and other West Midlands MPs to raise the issue of immigration at a local level.

He denied that the MPs were "playing the race card" but said that he expected Conservative MPs to campaign for the same rights for every person, irrespective of background, race, colour or religion. "As far as I am concerned, they have the same rights, the same opportunities, the same choices and the same obligations as everyone else and that is the Conservative Party's position."

☐ Paddy Ashdown coined a new campaign slogan yesterday, urging politicians to be "less stuck up and get more stuck in". The Liberal Democrat leader used the phrase after using a JCB to shovel plastic bottles at a recycling plant in Surrey.

Rifkind and Cook are closer on Europe than they pretend

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Tories and Labour are both misleading voters over the choices facing Britain in Europe. Malcolm Rifkind and Robin Cook yesterday exaggerated the differences between what a re-elected Major and a Blair government would do. The real contrast is less one of policy than of attitude.

Mr Rifkind yesterday played the Churchillian "if necessary, alone" card in response to the new Dutch presidency proposals for the Amsterdam summit in June. These propose extending the remit of Brussels institutions to include defence, foreign, and immigration policies which are at present decided between governments. He denounced the proposals as another lurch in a federalist direction. This can hardly have gone down well with other European leaders gathered in Rome to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the treaty setting up the European Community, though the remarks were presumably aimed more at a domestic audience.

But behind the indignant rhetoric, Mr Rifkind's response to the Dutch paper is virtually the same as Mr Cook's. If you add on a sceptical attitude towards an early start to a single currency, then the two main parties have a broadly similar approach — with the Liberal Democrats as the only unambiguously pro-integrationist party.

The alternative offered by Mr Cook yesterday was pretty thin. Labour, he said, is "the party that can do business in Europe and will take Britain off the sidelines and make Britain a leading player in the team". His approach was a mixture of good intentions and hot air. Some is what the present Government has been doing for some time like "bringing down the barriers that stand in the way of completing the European single market", pressing for "a flying start to the negotiations on enlargement of the EU", and being "tough on fraud against the European budget". A new Labour government would not have a magic wand to achieve more than the Tories have tried to do in these areas.

Similarly, it is merely a pious hope for Mr Cook to say that "Labour will press for new priorities in the Community budget", notably a cut in the share taken by the common agricultural policy. And so say all of us, apart from French, German, Spanish, Greek etc farmers and their politicians. Mr Cook's call for measures to achieve economic stablity across the EU via a European recovery fund implies additional public spending and European resources hardly welcome to "Iron Chancellor" Gordon Brown. Mr Cook has a point that Labour is not opposed to a single currency in principle, as many, if not most, Tory MPs are. But in practice Mr Cook, if not Mr Brown, is as cautious about a single currency as the Tory leadership.

Mr Cook is more persuasive in arguing that a Blair government would adopt a more positive attitude to negotiations, and be less confrontational and negative than the Tories now are. Unlike Mr Major, Mr Blair would not have to worry about Cabinet and internal party dissent over Europe, at least initially. He would have freedom of manoeuvre to reach a deal at the inter-governmental conference, notably over extensions of qualified majority voting, tidying up the powers of the European Parliament and signing up to the social chapter. This is the real gap on policy with the Tories; and Labour is fuzzy about how far it would, or be able to, oppose new measures adding to business costs. But that is very far from saying Labour would sign up to a "federalist" agenda.

The choice on Europe is over the ability to deliver a coherent policy. For the moment, the Tories cannot because of their deep divisions. A Labour government might be able to. But with the important exception of social policy, the broad thrust of the British approach may change less than the parties pretend. Britain is still unlikely to be at the heart of Europe.

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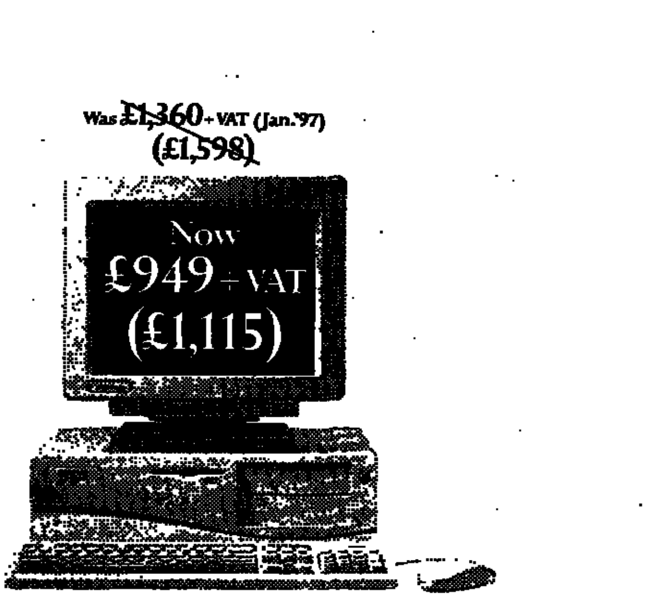

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Leading Tories are linked with seat of MP who quit

BY MAGNUS LINKLATER

SCOTTISH Tories *moved* quickly yesterday to limit the damage caused by the *surprise* resignation of the MP Allan Stewart as candidate for their safest seat.

Mr Stewart, a former Scottish Office Minister, is standing down from his Eastwood constituency on health and personal grounds after press reports linked him with a married woman he is said to *have met while attending* a clinic specialising in alcohol problems.

Last night the names of three *leading party figures* were among those being mentioned as possible successors. Sir Michael Hirst, the party chairman, and former MP for Strathkelvin and Bearsden, refused to rule himself out of *the* race. "No *one ever says* never in life," he said, adding: "If I *was approached by the* association then I would obviously give the matter serious consideration."

Annabel Goldie, deputy chairman of the party, would be another obvious choice, as would Jackson Carlaw, party vice-chairman and a former chairman of the Eastwood Conservatives. Adrian Shinwell, vice-chairman of the Eastwood association ruled *himself out as a candidate but* said that he believed someone *senior in the party would* be a likely choice. Last night, Ian Muir, chairman of the Eastwood association, emphasised *that there was no question* of being rushed.

The association executive will be meeting tonight to consider a shortlist, but any recommendation has to go to the association's members for approval. "We have to have a candidate in place before the April 16 to allow him or her the fullest opportunity to fight the campaign," Mr Muir said.

Both Labour and the Scottish National Party, while paying tribute to Mr Stewart *as a strong and likeable MP*, lost no time in capitalising on the episode. Jack McConnell, general secretary of the Scottish Labour Party, said: "The Tory campaign has been a disaster since last Monday because they have no ideas left for the country." He pointed *out that senior figures in the* party, including Michael Forsyth, *the Secretary of State*, had so far been notable for their absence. Michael Russell, chief executive of the SNP, said: "Top Tories will be fighting like ferrets in a sack over this vacancy."

However, senior Tory officials remained confident that despite the setback they would buck the trend and hold onto their key seats, including Mr Forsyth's Stirling constituency. "It's interesting *that* Labour have refused to answer *key question that* we have put to them arising from their *recently launched Covenant* for Scotland," one senior Tory said. "Instead, Tony Blair in Aberdeen preferred to talk about the Spice Girls."

The Glasgow suburb of Newton Mearns, the Conservative heartland of the Eastwood constituency, reacted with a mixture of sympathy and cynicism to news of their MP's resignation yesterday.

In the shopping centre *many* were *not unduly surprised* by the allegations about *Mr Stewart's private* life or his health. Many expressed sadness that someone who had worked hard for Newton Mearns was stepping down in such circumstance and so close to the general election.

But the over-riding opinion was that his absence would make no significant difference to the Conservative majority of *11,688 in Eastwood*.

Kath Chalmers, a mother of three, said: "This is to do with his personal life and is nothing to do with his life as an MP. He has done all right for this town and I think most people will be supportive."

Robert McCracken, 69, of nearby Barrhead, said: "I don't vote Tory, but I quite liked him. He seems to be more sensitive than most MPs *and maybe he just couldn't* take any more criticism."

Blair warns pupils off drugs

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

TONY BLAIR chose a schoolroom in Aberdeen yesterday to launch a proposal for an American-style anti-drugs supremo who would co-ordinate Labour's policy on drugs and report directly to a Cabinet minister.

At Dyce Academy, Mr Blair told an audience of 13 and 14-*year-olds that he would ap*point a "drugs czar" to help to educate young people not to take drugs. The appointment would signal the determination of a Labour government that it was "not prepared to tolerate the waste of any more young lives". He asked pupils if they had ever been offered drugs, then told them: "Just say no".

Yesterday the Church of Scotland called for a Royal *Commission to be appointed* to consider the legalisation of cannabis. The call was denounced by Mr Blair and by Ian Oliver, the Chief Constable of Grampian Police and the man tipped to become Labour's anti-drugs supremo. Mr Blair said: "I'm against it because it leads to hard drugs." *Dr Oliver said the* Church was "pandering to a *liberal attitude*" *which could* cause great harm.

Leading article, page 19

Allan and Susie Stewart outside their country home yesterday. Below, Mrs Knight

Silent Stewart stays home with the family

BY A STAFF REPORTER

ALLAN STEWART was *happy to pose with his wife* outside their country home in Neilston yesterday but refused to talk to reporters.

He rubbed his hands against the cold and smiled for the cameras before putting his arm protectively around his wife, who stood silently by his side. He refused to comment on his resignation letter, which said recent press reports about his personal life and his health had caused distress.

The letter, which was delivered to the Eastwood constitu*ency office at 6pm on Monday*, said: "After discussing my health and position with Susie, who has always been so supportive of my role as the *Member of Parliament* for Eastwood, I have decided to *resign as prospective parliamentary candidate.*"

At the weekend a tabloid *newspaper* linked Mr Stewart, 54, to Catherine Knight, 47, a married mother of four. The paper said Mrs Knight had been a regular visitor to his London flat, which overlooks the Oval cricket ground.

The allegations followed on from his recent admission that he attended an alcohol rehabilitation centre in *Peebles last* winter. "I have nothing to add *to my statement yesterday. I* have made a statement and *that's it, but I'm perfectly* happy to pose for photographs," he said. Mrs Knight declined to comment.

Voters given little to cheer in fight of few punches

THE television election battle has turned this week to the economy, with the Chancellor, *Kenneth Clarke*, and his shadow, Gordon Brown, *both refusing to put their* heads above the parapet or *risk all-out attack*.

The Clarke line is the old Harold Macmillan boast of "You've never had it so good", while warning viewers that Labour is bound to spoil it. Brown intones that Labour can be trusted to spend and tax no more than the Tories. There is not much difference between the two.

The two heavyweights met on Monday on *Newsnight, with Peter Snow refereeing*, a venue that suggested at least a few *bruises* and perhaps a cut or two above the eye. But this was no boxing match. They seemed more like sumo wrestlers shoving and sweating their way around a small space that both needed to occupy. Neither gave an inch, nor *would risk going too far on* the offensive lest he expose a weak flank.

Both have been warming up since the election was called. Mr Clarke has set out his stall at two morning press conferences live from Central Office, reading without passion from a dreary script. Mr Brown went a sparring round on Sunday with John Humphrys on *On The Record*, and he *stalled* and stonewalled even when *there was nothing new to* give away.

When the big fight arrived, both refused to come out of their corners. What is going on? Whatever happened to the roly-poly Clarke who loved to mix it with his opponent, a pint of beer in one hand, a cheroot in the other? Where was the pugilist in the Garrick tie and suede shoes who used to slip the *stiletto* in with a chuckle?

Mr Brown has quite other *virtues. His wit is slow, his* style ponderous. An endearing smile plays around his lips when asked a question, but there is no attempt to endear himself with the television audience. *He is the* master of detail, a swot who *has worked long and hard to* acquaint himself with every *eventuality. But he is* damned if he is going to pass *off his* labours as effortless.

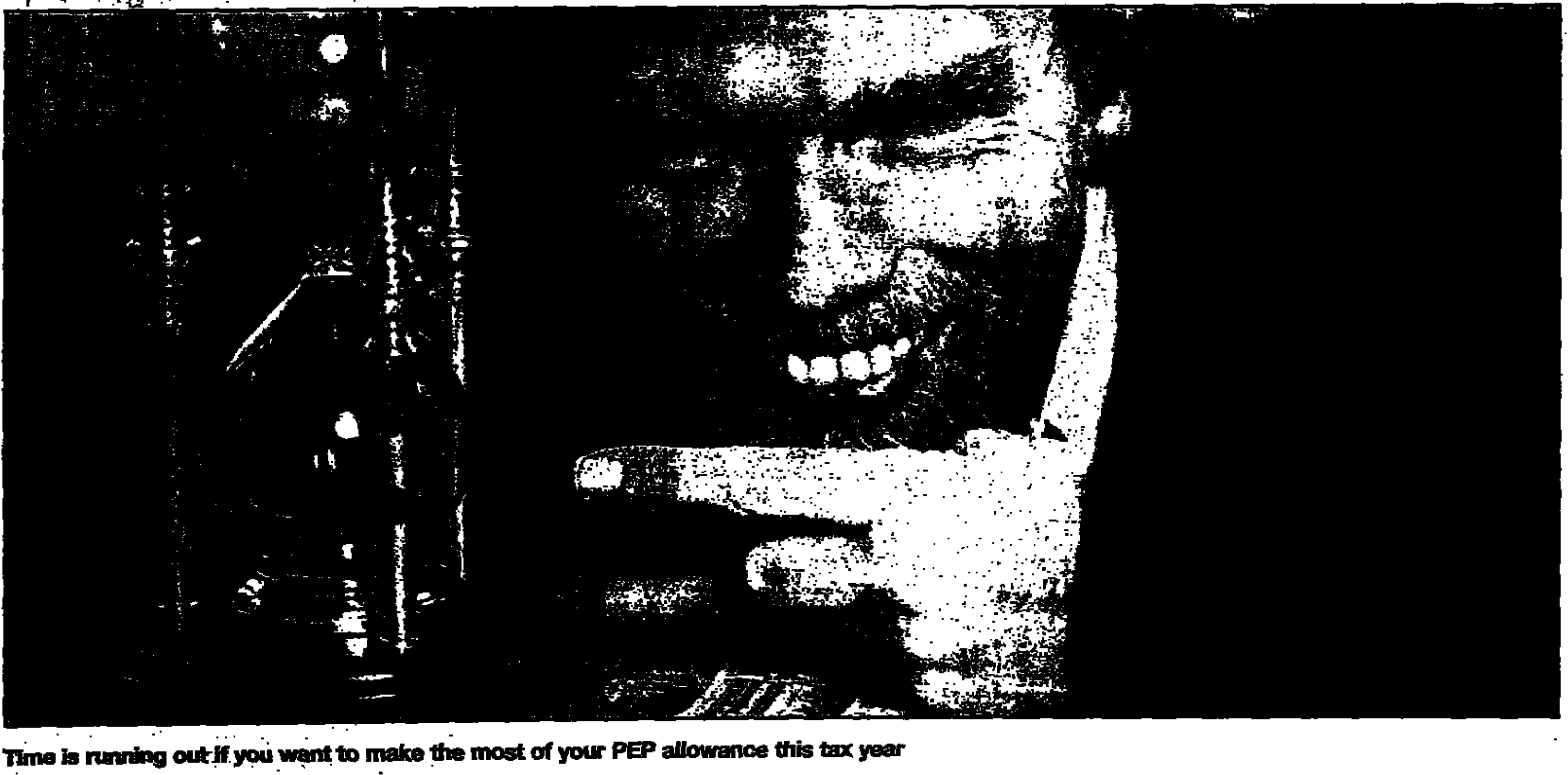
The big debate soon ran aground. Mr Brown said that manufacturing investment was down; Mr Clarke said no, investment as a whole was up. Mr Brown insisted that manufacturing investment was down; Mr Clarke said he was looking at one month's figures; Mr Brown said no, they were for a year. And so it went on, like *two brothers bickering.*

TV WATCH
NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

There were several missed opportunities. Mr Clarke *made great play of* Mr Brown's refusal to list the *companies hit by Labour's* utilities tax when he might better have taken the side of the innocent recent investor hit by such an arbitrary tax. It all ended in stalemate, as if both men had conspired to keep the electorate in the dark.

The dog not allowed to bark was the question of Britain's entry into the single European currency, which *will be decided in the next* Parliament. Where would *that lead their promises of a* better tomorrow? Would we be better off in or out? Their answers would have been worth listening to.

Time's running out...



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Colony land sells for £150m an acre

Hong Kong: A 6.3-acre plot of land here was sold for £950 million yesterday in what experts described as probably a world record as well as a resounding vote of confidence in the territory's future.

The 275,369 sq ft site at Chai Wan, on the north-eastern edge of Hong Kong island, was bought from the Government for £150 million an acre by Sino Land for residential and commercial use. Sino Land sealed the deal after the longest auction in the colony's history — a buying frenzy that began at £522 million and ended 2¼ hours later.

"As far as Hong Kong is concerned, this is certainly a record price," Herbert Leung, the government auctioneer, said.

Michael Green, Salomon Brothers director, said the price "is probably the highest price paid at auction for any site ever in the world. "It equates to £435 per square foot before one's even put a building on it."

Robert Ng, chairman of Sino Land, asked whether he believed that the firm had confidence in the future of Hong Kong under Chinese rule, just 98 days away, said: "You ask me this question after we [pay this sum]? Are you crazy?" *(AFP)*

Angry workers challenge power of German banks

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

MORE than 20,000 angry steelworkers yesterday protested against the power of Germany's banks in a direct challenge to the financial system that has ruled the country since the Second World War.

The protests were staged in Frankfurt, mainland Europe's financial capital, and some newspapers warned that the barracking of Germany's private banks could soon spill over into demonstrations against the European Central Bank as controller of the euro.

Foundry workers made bonfires of bank statements in Frankfurt's financial quarter and chanted: "We will not be cheated out of our jobs." Union activists blocked the paths of nervous stock analysts and urged them to withdraw their accounts from the banks targeted by the workers. In Dortmund, 6,000 workers in Krupp-Hoesch went on strike.

The demonstrators, who had been bussed in from the Ruhr and other industrial regions, blame Deutsche and Dresdner banks for helping to engineer Krupp's £5 billion hostile takeover bid for Thyssen and thus putting tens of thousands of jobs in peril. The unprecedented bid was withdrawn on Monday afternoon and the companies say they are close to securing a working arrangement stopping short of a full merger. But the unions are nervous that even this will entail big job cuts and that the role of the banks is still destructive.

Klaus Zwickel, chairman of the IG Metall union — one of the most powerful in Europe — launched a blistering attack on the influence of the banks. To loud applause he said they were creating a "casino capitalism that has become a danger to the general public".

> ‘Who rules in Germany? The elected representatives or boardroom bankers?’

Workers whistled and cheered when he added: "The banks are destroying the political culture of our country. Behind our backs, with secret general staff-like planning, they prepared a move which extinguishes our jobs. Parties and parliaments have to ask themselves: who rules in Germany? The democratically elected *representatives or the bankers* in the boardrooms?"

The close co-operation of banks with industrial companies has been the very essence of the German economy since the war and has roots in the 19th century. As workers are guaranteed seats on supervisory boards, there have been few challenges.

But the conflict of interest exposed in the steel takeover bid, with the same banks sitting on the boards of two rival companies, has coincided with painful social spending cuts and a general decline of heavy industry. This mixture has sparked revolt.

Krupp came under pressure to withdraw the hostile bid, described as "Wild West capitalism" by the Bonn Government and by the Social Democrat-controlled administration of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The banks, too, have "reviewed their positions" and concluded that the financial advantages of a takeover were probably outweighed by the social costs and, above all, by the loss of image.

The workers said yesterday that they would continue to protest until guarantees were given that there would be no compulsory redundancies.

Coalminers recently won a similar concession from Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, *in return for accepting cuts in* mining subsidies and pit closures.

KAI PFAFFENBACH · REUTER

Steelworkers demonstrate in Frankfurt over the role of bankers in a hostile takeover bid

[redacted]

Solution closer in Lima siege

Lima: A solution to the hostage crisis at the Japanese Ambassador's residence here seemed closer last night after Carlos Hermoza, the Justice Minister, said between 200 and 250 prisoners unjustly accused of terrorism and detained across the country will be freed. He gave no date.

Although he insisted there was *no link* between this release and negotiations on the hostage crisis, his remarks came after mediators spent all day talking to government officials and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary rebels on Monday. *(AFP)*

Security scare for Gingrich

Seoul: Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, was forced to cancel a briefing at the demilitarised zone dividing North and South Korea after a North Korean soldier carrying a rifle was spotted in the area. Mr Gingrich, touring Asia, said later America was committed to the defence of South Korea, where 37,000 US troops guard the border. *(Reuter)*

Villagers free Shell hostages

Lagos: Shell Oil says that 31 of its staff and contractors held in Nigeria by feuding communities have been freed. A spokesman said that 96 people were still being detained at six flow stations which the villagers have occupied since the weekend in protest against the relocation of local government headquarters. *(Reuter)*

Party ousts Milosevic foe

Belgrade: Milo Djukanovic, pro-Western premier of Montenegro, resigned from the ruling pro-Serbian Socialist Party after coming under harsh criticism for attacking President Milosevic of Serbia. His removal suggests that Mr Milosevic is regaining political strength. *(AP)*

Russia arrests officer as spy

Moscow: Russia's Federal Security Service has caught a senior officer in the strategic missile command who was preparing to sell defence secrets to a foreign power, Russian news agencies reported, but provided no further details. *(Reuter)*

Paris to rebuild memorial for last martyr to liberty

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

PARIS city authorities have agreed to erect a new memorial to the last Frenchman executed for "crimes of impiety", more than two centuries after he was burnt at the stake and 56 years after the Nazis melted down an original bronze statue depicting his martyrdom.

François-Jean Le Fefebvre, better known as the Chevalier de La Barre, was put to death in 1766 and later became a potent symbol of the excesses of religious intolerance. Recent electoral advances by the extreme right-wing National Front, coupled with fears that bigotry is again on the rise, have led to a renewal of interest in the short life and brutal death of La Barre, one of France's most celebrated lay martyrs.

The execution of the Chevalier de La Barre, at the age of 20, was a grisly affair. Accused of mutilating a crucifix, he was sentenced to have his tongue torn out, his hand severed and his head cut off before being burnt in two separate instalments.

Among other blasphemies, La Barre was charged with singing impious songs and failing to take off his hat to a *passing procession of Capuchin friars*, but his only "crime" appears to have been membership of a rowdy "group of young people" with advanced ideas about individual liberty. His supporters included Voltaire, who vowed to fight "the monster of intolerance" and noted that the gruesome barbarities inflicted on the young man "took place not in the 13th or 14th centuries, but in the 18th".

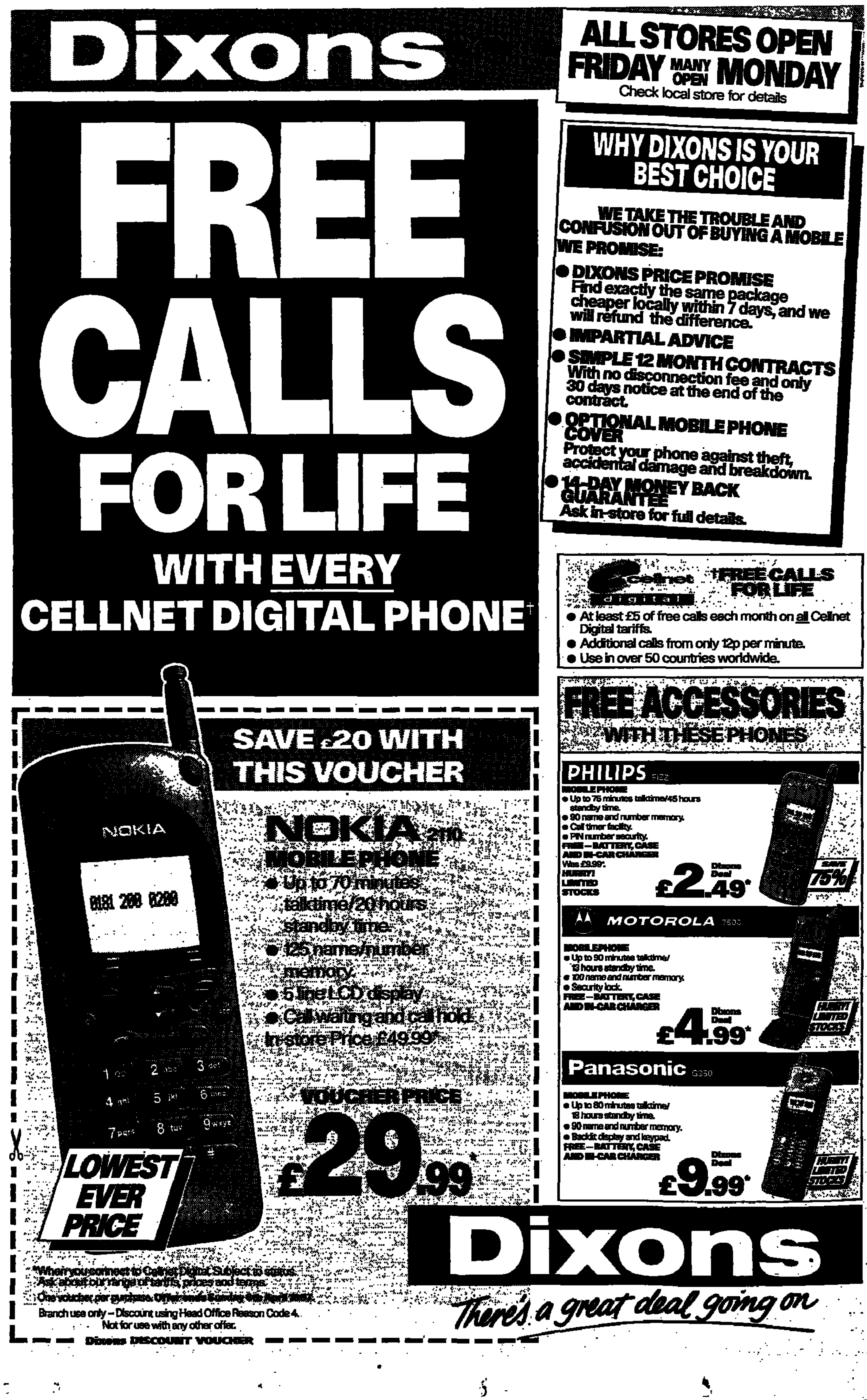
The great French lawyer Simon Linguet mounted a stirring but ineffective defence of "this unfortunate child, prostrate at the feet of the judge". The Chevalier was rehabilitated as a hero after the French Revolution in 1789.

La Barre's tragic end inspired numerous books and a cult following, and in 1905 Georges Clemenceau, shortly before he became Prime Minister, unveiled a bronze statue to his memory. In 1941, however, the occupying Nazi troops melted it down to provide bronze for the German war effort. Only the plinth commemorating La Barre remains at the foot of Sacré-Coeur basilica in Montmartre.

"The memory of this young man deserves to be given another monument worthy of his name," said Claudine Tailhades, founder of the new International Chevalier de La Barre Association. "La Barre symbolises all that is freedom of expression, of thought, of conscience, because at the moment there is a resurgence of religious and political fanaticism linked to the rise of the Far-Right."

Earlier this month the local council in the 18th arrondissement of Paris voted that one million francs (£125,000) be spent on a new monument, but disagreement emerged over what type of memorial was appropriate.

The Paris Office of Culture insists that "a more stimulating concept" than the doomed man strapped to a stake should be found.



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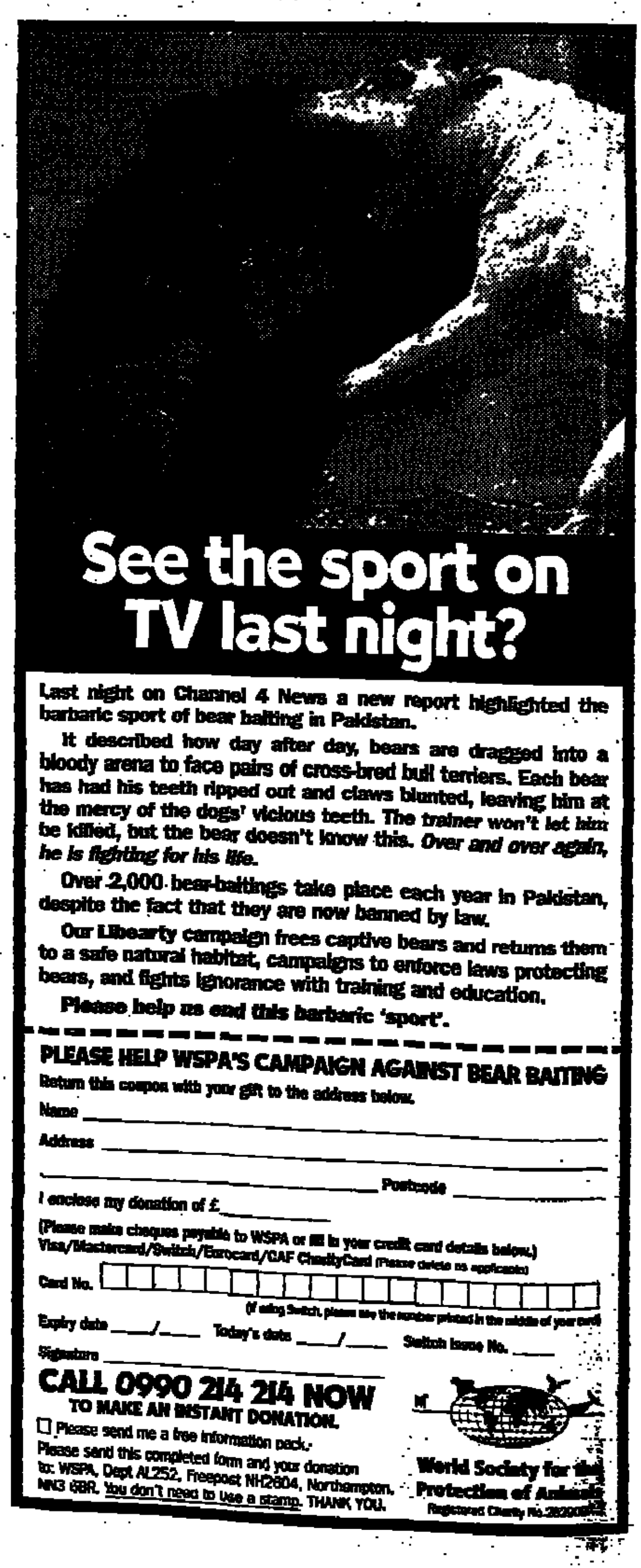

See the sport on TV last night?

Last night on Channel 4 News a new report highlighted the barbaric sport of bear baiting in Pakistan.

It described how day after day, bears are dragged into a bloody arena to face pairs of cross-bred bull terriers. Each bear has had his teeth ripped out and claws blunted, leaving him at the mercy of the dogs' vicious teeth. *The trainer won't let him be killed, but the bear doesn't know this. Over and over again, he is fighting for his life.*

Over 2,000 bear-baitings take place each year in Pakistan, despite the fact that they are now banned by law.

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Holy Land riots force pilgrims to cancel Easter tours

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

THE Foreign Office warned British travellers yesterday to avoid the West Bank and Gaza Strip as Palestinians clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank for the sixth successive day.

As the protests against the building of Jewish homes at Har Homa, in annexed east Jerusalem, escalated, Israel's Chief of Staff said, "It will mean war" if Palestinians take up guns. The protests and last week's suicide-bomb attack at a Tel Aviv café are beginning to have an effect on Israel's tourism industry. A leading Christian clergyman in Jerusalem said Easter in the Holy Land had become "a dead season", with thousands of pilgrims rushing to cancel bookings.

Bishop Kamal-Hanna Batish, deputy head of the Roman Catholic Church, told members of the Foreign Press Association: "Everyone who was planning to visit for Easter celebrations and has been able to cancel has done so. There is also a risk that if the violence continues for a long period, it could affect plans by millions of pilgrims to mark the millennium, what we call The Great Jubilee, in the Holy Land."

The threat of more violence over Har Homa was depicted in freshly painted slogans from Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement. New army and police roadblocks have sprouted throughout Israel to prevent more suicide attacks, and armed police guard the near empty streets of the Old City.

"There is no one coming to the shops. There is a bad feeling that the intifada is going to begin all over again," said the owner of one trinket store close to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Samir Michel, Christian manager of the 51-room Patriarchate guesthouse, said: "Usually at this time of year we are bursting with guests, but this Easter we are less than half full. The whole new feeling of insecurity is impossible to overcome and people are cancelling all the time. I am afraid it is hard to convince our pilgrims abroad who have seen images on TV that Netanyahu is not a warmonger." He was referring to Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Already one tourist bus has been badly stoned in Bethlehem and yesterday the entrance to the self-rule town where Jesus was born was once again transformed into a dangerous battleground with hundreds of Palestinian youths attacking Israeli troops guarding the tomb of the biblical matriarch, Rachel.

Some of the rioters were wearing gas masks to counter clouds of teargas and others were using catapults to fire stones at the troops. By nightfall, more than 25 Palestinians had been wounded by rubber bullets fired by the Israelis and the Voice of Palestine radio reported that nearly 100 had been taken to hospital suffering from teargas inhalation.

More clashes also took place in Hebron, the disputed West Bank city, with about 200 Palestinians attempting to storm centrally located buildings occupied by 450 militant Jewish settlers until they were forced back by Palestinian police.

Senior Palestine Liberation Organisation officials angrily denied claims by the Israeli authorities that they had been responsible for organising the rioting. But yesterday leaders of Fatah, the largest PLO faction, announced detailed plans for escalating the conflict against the Har Homa settlement. The Fatah leadership announced that it is returning to the state of struggle against Israel suspended since the 1993 peace deal, which is now in tatters.

The Yesha Council representing 144,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip condemned the plan and called on Mr Netanyahu to take immediate action. The plea came as the

Foreign Office announced in London: "Travel to the West Bank and Gaza Strip should be confined to essential visits for the time being." Officials added that Britons on vital trips to Israel and the occupied territories had been asked to carry their passports at all times because of the many checkpoints in operation.

The Foreign Office added: "All visitors should note that passengers boarding flights in Israel can be subject to lengthy personal questioning by security officials." Britons have been advised to keep track of local events and contact the British Consulate in Jerusalem or tour representatives if they need help.

MENAHEM KAHANA / EPA

A Palestinian wearing a gas mask hurls back a teargas grenade at Israeli soldiers as a sixth consecutive day of riots engulfed the West Bank

Teenagers talk their way out of a family suicide pact

From Richard Cleroux in Ottawa

THREE teenagers talked their way out of a suicide pact with their parents who were involved with a death cult.

Five members of the Order of the Solar Temple Sect committed suicide after setting their home on fire in St Casimir, a village 50 miles west of Quebec City. The teenagers had persuaded their parents that they should be allowed to spend the night in a shed on the property, while the adults went ahead.

The five adults, one Canadian, two French and two Swiss, were discovered by firemen in the blazing house. The cult believes that their sins can be expiated only through death by fire, which launches them on a mystic trip to the star Sirius where they are reborn. The suicide must take place either during the spring or autumn equinox.

The children were to have been included, without their knowledge, in the suicide on Thursday night but the electronic mechanism the adults had set up to fire two propane tanks did not work and was discovered by the teenagers.

Réal Ouellet, a Quebec Police spokesman, said: "The youngsters talked to their parents, saying that they did not want to go on this voyage." The family discussed the matter at length, and finally the parents, Didier Quèze and his wife, Chantal Goupillot, both French nationals, allowed their children to stay behind.

The children, boys aged 13 and 16 and a girl of 14, were given drugs which made them semi-conscious and were told that when they woke up the following day, their parents, another couple, and their grandmother would all be on the star Sirius.

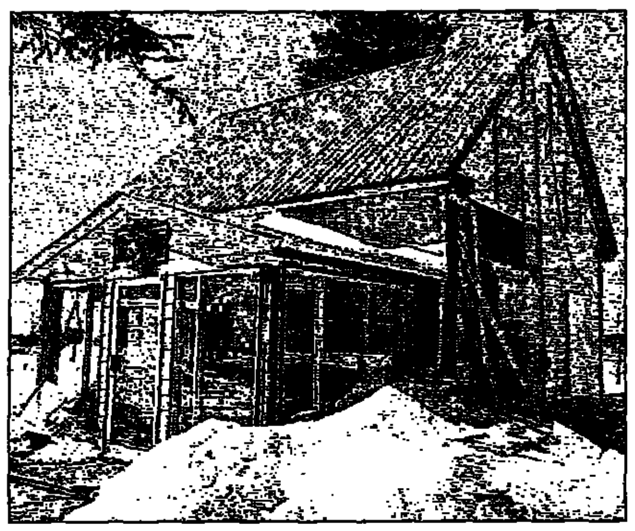
Firemen found the burned bodies of the parents sitting cross-legged on an upstairs bed next to the bodies of a Swiss couple, Bruno Klaus and Pauline Rioux.

Police found a fifth body, that of the grandmother, Suzanne Druau, on a couch. She had a plastic bag over her head, leading police to believe that she might have been murdered.

The sect received worldwide attention in October, 1994, when 53 members died in a combination of murders and suicides at a ski resort in Quebec and two villages in Switzerland.

Almost a year later 16 cult members including several children, died in a remote French Alpine village.

Police are watching 35 other members of the cult in Canada in the hope of preventing copycat suicides.



The house where five cult members died in a fire

Bush fulfils promise to bale out for fun

From Associated Press in Yuma, Arizona

HALF a century after he baled out of a Second World War torpedo-bomber, George Bush, the former President, fulfilled a promise to himself by strapping on a parachute and jumping from an aircraft yesterday – just for fun.

With the blessing of his wife, Barbara, Mr Bush, 72, jumped from a civilian plane 12,500ft above the US Army's Yuma Proving Ground. He deployed his orange, yellow and blue parachute at 4,500ft. Two jump masters held a harness attached to his body until he opened his chute.

As Mr Bush touched down, apparently none the worse for his adventure, about half a dozen people rushed to assist him. Emergency medical personnel were standing by on the ground but their services were not required.

Eight other parachutists jumped with the former President, who was fulfilling the promise he made that he would someday skydive just for fun on September 2, 1944, as he baled out of his bullet-torn torpedo-bomber over the Pacific Ocean. His two crewmates were killed when the aircraft was struck by fire from the Japanese Navy.

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Leader flees Papua siege disguised as policeman

FROM NOEL PASCOE IN PORT MORESBY

THE Papua New Guinea Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, was smuggled out of parliament yesterday, apparently disguised as a policeman, as more than a thousand protesters and armed rebel soldiers besieged the building.

Chris Haiveta, the Deputy Prime Minister, is believed to have slipped out shortly afterwards and eight other MPs escaped during the night, but more than 80 remained trapped inside. Sir Julius was smuggled out shortly after defeating, by 58-39, a motion calling for his resignation.

Major Walter Enuma, the rebel commander, had promised that the siege would be lifted, claiming: "We respect the law of the land. The parliament has made its decision and the military will respect it."

However, soldiers were still at the gates early today searching cars carrying media and parliamentary employees out of the building. One group of soldiers told the *Post-Courier* that they would not remove the roadblocks or end their vigil until the Prime Minister resigned. They added that they would not listen to Major Enuma either.

Four prominent opposition MPs went to the front gate to urge the crowd to disperse and go home. They reportedly told them that they would try to reintroduce the resignation motion in parliament later today.

Opposition speakers, acknowledging that they could not force Sir Julius to resign, appealed to the Prime Minister and the 97 MPs present during the debate to "listen to the voices of the people" and vote according to their conscience. But they failed to convince the government backbenchers.

The motion against Sir Julius was introduced in parliament by Bill Skate, leader of the Opposition and Governor of Port Moresby, the capital. He told parliament that the nation was divided and its international credibility was in tatters because Sir Julius had called in mercenaries to put down a rebellion in Bougainville without consulting the Cabinet.

"This is not about politics," he said. "Unless we appoint a caretaker prime minister to oversee the establishment of a commission of inquiry and to lead us into the next election, our country is heading for anarchy."

Sir Julius ended the debate by commending the two leaders for their "responsible debate", adding: "We must never compromise the constitution of this country. There comes a time when big issues arise and you will have to make a decision. I accepted that responsibility and I will not pass it on to another person. I accept it absolutely."

Colonel Reg Renagi, the acting Chief of Staff of the Defence Force, last night reassured the public that the army accepted the decision of parliament.

"This signifies that democracy is alive and well in PNG," he said. "The parliamentary process under the constitution has been tested. The integrity of the [defence force] has also been tested and has proven ... that the force has a duty to uphold and protect the constitution."

Sir Julius: survived vote demanding resignation

Italy to lead 'Club Med' intervention force in Albania

DAVID BRAUCHLI / AP

A fisherman prepares his nets in the Albanian port of Durres while two boats blaze after refugees who failed to start their engines set them on fire

FROM RICHARD OWEN AND CHARLES BREMNER IN ROME

A "CLUB MED" military force preparing to intervene in Albania to protect humanitarian aid convoys will be spearheaded by an Italian force of 5,000 men, Italian defence officials said yesterday. "It is clear that, because of British and German opposition, the southern Europeans will have to go it alone," one official said.

European Union leaders, meeting in Rome yesterday, were divided over Albania. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said his country would not send any forces. "Europe is unanimous that it is not right to send soldiers on a large-scale to Albania," he said.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said there was no question of "sending an army" to the Balkan state, but some countries could send a limited police contingent.

After Bashkim Fino, the Albanian Prime Minister, met EU ministers, Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, said he hoped a decision would be made within days on the size of an EU security contingent. "We are preparing with other countries ... to give security protection to civilians we are sending with the EU to Albania," he said. "We don't intend to ... operate on our own."

Convicted killer 'burnt alive' in bungled Florida execution

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AN ELECTRIC chair execution went badly wrong yesterday when a convicted man's head burst into flames after being jolted by the high-voltage power charge from Florida's notorious "Old Sparky".

Pedro Medina, 39, a Cuban émigré who was sentenced to death for the murder of a schoolmaster in 1982, had just uttered his last words — "I am still innocent" — when flames up to a foot long shot from the side of his skull and smoke poured out of his face mask.

As wardens rushed to cut the power, the flames continued to flicker eerily over the dead man's face for ten seconds. Witnesses in the execution chamber viewing booth at Starke prison, near Jacksonville, also described the room filling with a foul-smelling smoke.

"It was brutal, terrible, a burning alive, literally," one of them, Michael Minerva, said.

Florida's Governor Lawton Chiles asked the state's Corrections Department to make an immediate review of the use of "Old Sparky", the ageing oak electric chair. It is not the first time that the device has malfunctioned. An earlier incident in 1990 led to a temporary halt to electrocutions.

Linda Thurston, head of Amnesty International's campaign to abolish the death penalty, said in New York yesterday: "This was a horrifying spectacle and merely demonstrates that we are allowing the state to murder people." The unpleasantness of the execution will lead to renewed protests from opponents of the death penalty. Ms Thurston added: "Any method of execution is horrifying. We have had botched executions by lethal injection also."

Larry Spalding of the America Civil Liberties Union, which also opposes capital punishment, said: "There is zero chance of abolishing the death penalty in Florida."

The electric chair is used by only 11 of the 38 jurisdictions in the US which permit capital punishment. Florida has put 39 convicts to death since 1976, when capital punishment was reintroduced. The state has some 450 people on its death row.

US in $2bn China deals

Beijing: US Vice-President Al Gore and Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, yesterday presided over the signing of two multimillion-dollar deals that diplomats here see as showing that Sino-American relations are back on a much stronger footing (James Pringle writes).

In one deal, Air China, the country's international carrier, agreed to spend more than $700 million (£433 million) on passenger jets from Boeing. In the other, General Motors agreed a $1.3 billion joint venture with a Shanghai factory to build medium-sized cars in China.

In both cases, envoys said, the deals had been held up since 1995 because of strains in relations over Taiwan. During that time China pointedly purchased a fleet of European Airbuses.

Inkatha men guilty of Christmas massacre

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

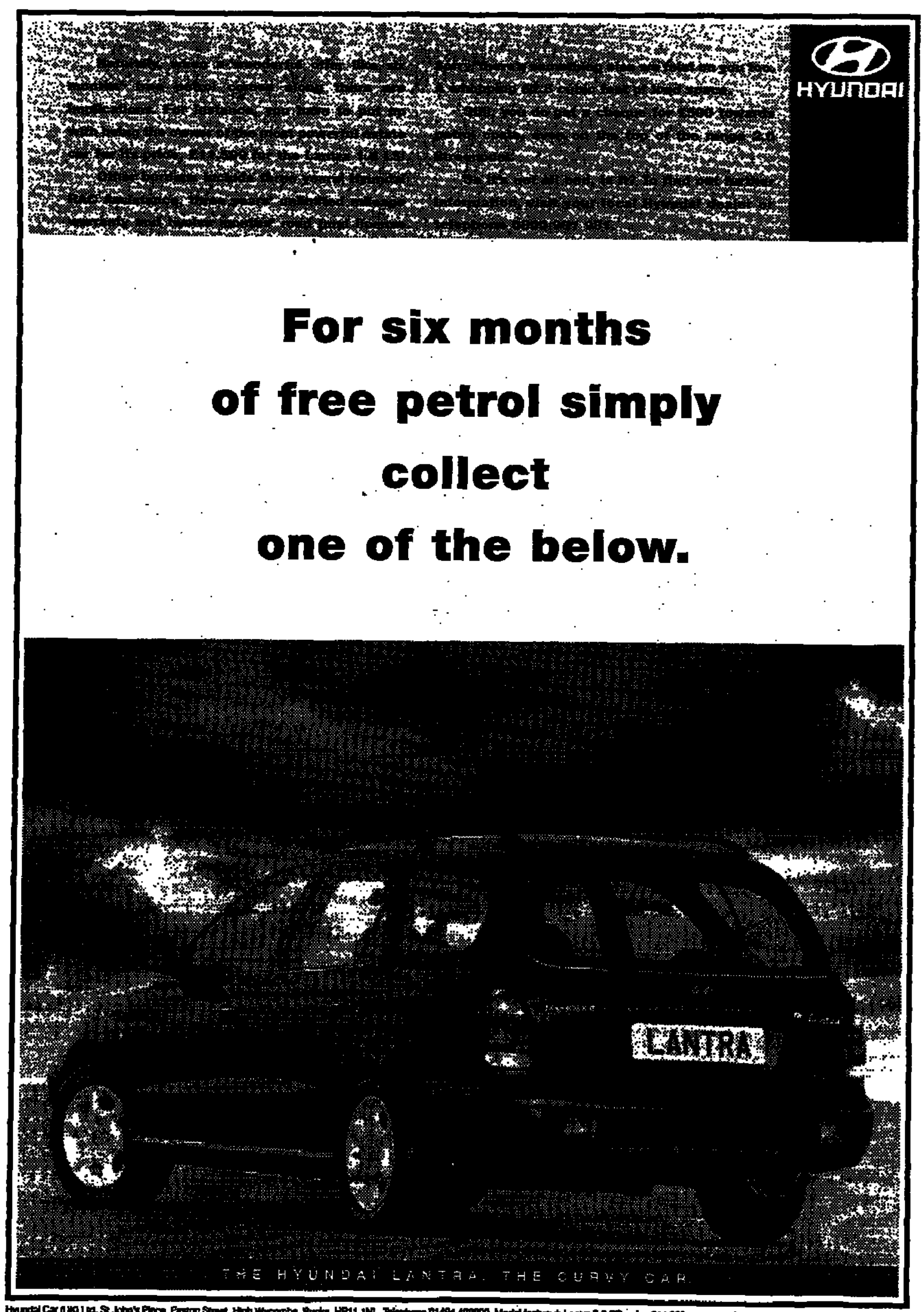
THIRTEEN Inkatha Freedom Party supporters were yesterday convicted on charges of murder and attempted murder in the massacre of 18 African National Congress rivals on Christmas Day, 1995. The judgment could have serious implications for Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's faltering party.

Among those convicted in connection with the Shobashobane massacre in KwaZulu/Natal was Sipho Ngcobo, the local Inkatha leader. In passing judgment in Durban high court, Judge Hilary Squires said the attack was politically motivated.

The conviction of its supporters is a blow to the Zulu-dominated Inkatha's image. The party has sought to cast itself as the victim in the region's conflict where more than 15,000 people have died since the mid-1980s. Since local elections last June an uneasy peace has prevailed.

The judgment could undermine attempts by the party to revive its political fortunes for elections in 1999. Inkatha has been losing ground steadily to the ANC in the province.

☐ Killer's plea: Elias Sibiya, 26, the self-confessed killer of two British tourists, Elizabeth Over and Julie Godwin, yesterday begged his victims' families to forgive him for the 1992 attack. Sibiya said he had been driven to kill them on a remote beach in Maputuland because of a hatred for whites. He said his family had been expelled from their home when he was five-years-old and he had since hated whites.



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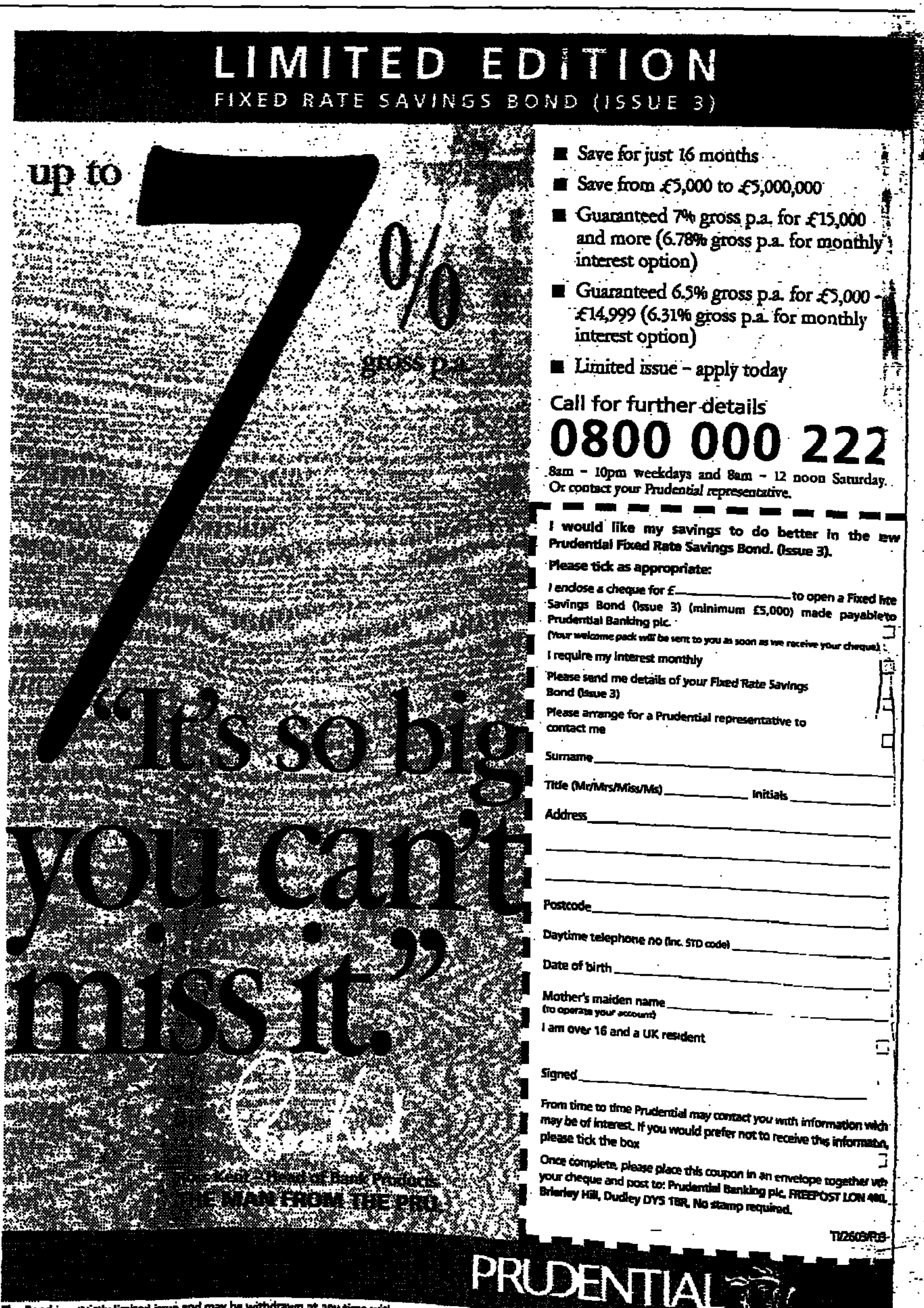

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Mayor counts the cost of home rule for Washington

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

MARION BARRY, the Mayor of Washington, said yesterday that the battle to win "home rule" for the United States capital 23 years ago had been a "Trojan horse" and had led to near bankruptcy for the city.

Mr Barry, one of the firebrands who mobilised the black community in the 1970s to win the right to manage Washington independently of the federal Government, says that, in retrospect, he would not have struck the deal.

His remarks during a panel discussion on whether Washington can be saved from descent into squalor and crime came as tourists poured into the city for the cherry blossom festival when the banks of the Potomac are lined with flowering trees.

A further sign of the city's decline emerged with the news that its tuberculosis cases increased by 36 per cent last year, although the rest of the US showed declines.

Mr Barry said that the number of potholes in the roads had reached 45,000, nearly one for every 10 residents. He has set up a Pothole Hotline but said that the city lacked any repair funds.

Washington's problem is that its main industry — government — pays no taxes, either on property or employment. The cost of servicing its population, three quarters black, is soaring but revenues are plunging as middle-class residents flee to the suburbs where there is less crime and lower taxes.

Hope for the District rose in December when President Clinton committed himself to save the capital by forcing the federal Government to take over responsibility for prisons, ports, and some medical care and prisons. But the Bill now faces a tough passage through Congress, as senators and representatives are reluctant to give funds to a region from which they get no votes.

Congress is also critical of Mr Barry's administration, which has been regularly accused of corruption. Andrew Brimmer, chairman of the Control Board installed last year to make the city balance its budget, said yesterday that a survey of District managers showed virtually none performing to adequate levels.

Carol O'Cleireacain of the Brookings Institution, a specialist in Washington's problems, added that the District was so inefficiently run it could not even collect its 20 different taxes and 115 fees and fines and should scrap many of them.

It emerged yesterday that Mr Barry's ex-wife, Mary Treadwell, who served 15 months in federal prison on a 1983 fraud conviction, and who is currently an employee of his office, has failed to account for $11,000 in community funds. She has denied mishandling city money.

An angry Mr Barry, who has been Mayor for most of the District's experiment in home rule, during which he was jailed for possession of "crack" cocaine, said that criticisms of management were a "sideshow".

However, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Washington's nonvoting member of the House of Representatives, said that the problems should be solvable because the city was so small. "New York is a tough city to turn round" she said. "Washington is peanuts."

Barry: independence has been a "Trojan horse"

Yearly cancer checks urged

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WOMEN in their forties should be screened for breast cancer every year, the American Cancer Society said, in a finding that sharpened an increasingly intense debate over the issue.

The recommendation differs significantly from the advice offered in January by a panel of experts convened by the National Cancer Institute, which said the available evidence did not justify annual mammograms under the age of 50.

Instead, it said, women should decide for themselves, a verdict that was widely criticised.

The government-run cancer institute and the privately-funded cancer society are by far the most influential groups offering guidelines to Americans about steps they should take to avoid and control cancer.

Until now, the society has urged mammograms every year or two for women between 40 and 50. The change to recommending an annual test is intended to save lives and end the confusion, the society said.

In Britain, research has been under way for two years to determine the benefits of screening women between 40 and 50, according to a spokesman at the Department of Health in London.

At present, British women between 50 and 64 are offered a mammogram on the National Health Service every three years. Those under 50 can receive a mammogram only if a GP thinks it is needed.

ANDRES RENDÓN / REUTER

Robert McClung, an American diver, holds a pottery piece recovered from the wreck of the Spanish galleon that sank in 1645 off Ecuador

Galleon found with $4bn treasure

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI
SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

TREASURE hunters have discovered remnants of a long sought Spanish galleon with a cargo of gold and silver coins which sank in 1654 off the coast of Ecuador.

The bounty that sank aboard the galleon *Capitana Jesús Maria de la Limpia Concepción* in the Pacific Ocean is believed to be worth $4 billion (£2.5 billion). It has lured dozens of salvage companies which are now disputing the right to dive for the treasure. An Ecuadorean company, using electronic-detection equipment, was the first to locate parts of the 100 ft vessel, including an anchor and a cannon.

"We spent a year diving and finally discovered what we were looking for. The currents have dispersed the shipwreck across a large area," Rony Almeida, an Ecuadorean diver, said.

But a Norwegian company, La Capitana Invest, and two American treasure-hunting companies, Underwater Salvage and Maritime Explorer, are among the contenders bidding for a licence from the Ecuadorean Government to salvage the treasure. The licence is expected to be granted to the highest bidder, which gets the right to 50 per cent of the bounty.

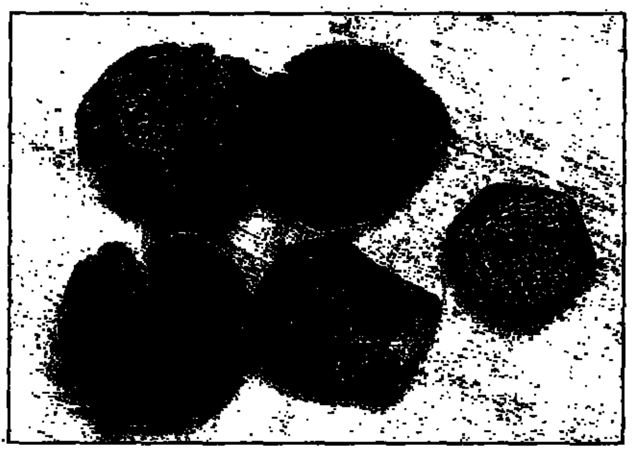
"The state keeps 50 per cent of the value of the silver coins and gold bars and all relics found," Cristóbal Mancayo, chief of marine police, said.

The *Capitana Jesús Maria* was sailing from Lima, in Peru, towards Panama. It sank after setting off from a stopover in the Ecuadorean port of Guayaquil. Historians claim the 1,200-tonne ship, chartered by the Spanish Crown, was also carrying emeralds and religious statues besides gold and silver.

Ecuadorean Navy vessels are presently patrolling the area where the wreck is thought to lie. "We want to make sure that none of the treasure goes astray," a naval spokesman said.

The cash-strapped Government has said it would spend the $2 billion it expected to earn from the treasure on social programmes.

Historians say at least 20 Spanish ships carrying gold from the mines of Potosi, Bolivia, sank off Ecuador. The *Capitana Jesús Maria* is the first wreck to be found.



Five silver coins recovered from the vessel by divers

Ships built to carry New World spoils

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

THE *Capitana Jesús Maria de la Limpia Concepción* was typical of the 17th century galleons used by Spaniards to bring home spoils from their empire in the New World.

Broad of beam, the 100ft vessel would have carried a cargo of about 1,000 tonnes, an 800-strong crew of sailors and soldiers, as well as an assortment of cannons to ward off marauding pirates. Contemporary sources also describe the ship as a vessel of outstanding beauty.

According to Gervasio Artiñano's *La Arquitectura Naval Española*, the definitive account of ships of the imperial age, published in 1920 — a galleon "had to serve as much for war as for trade" and was better-equipped to stand up to the elements than all other ships of the time.

Yet the broad-beamed galleons were clumsy and slow, often falling prey to the smaller and swifter boats of buccaneers. It was against such foes, however, that the *Capitana Jesús Maria* saw its most famous action. In September 1629, the ship that now lies on the seabed off Guayaquil led a Spanish assault on the Caribbean island of Nevis, then the bastion of some troublesome Dutch *vrijbuiters* or "freebooters".

The galleon's captain, Tiburcio Redín, was an impetuous man, and accounts tell of how he sailed his ship too close to the shore, exposing its flanks to fire from the pirates' cannons. The galleon had to be rescued by other ships from the Spanish fleet, and Captain Redín was temporarily relieved of his duties.

Patched up after the skirmish at Nevis, the galleon continued to sail between America and Spain, carrying bullion from mines in Potosi to the Spanish Treasury. These cargoes of gold were responsible for the inflation that rocked Spain in the 17th century, sinking its economy as surely as the galleon herself was sunk in 1654.

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The suit that loves a drama

JANE SHILLING
GETS DRESSED

Looking back, I am astonished that I didn't own a white suit the first time around. The risky combination of an iron will, an unshakeable confidence in my own faultless taste and a *doting and generous mother* meant that as a teenager I was able to succumb in some style to most of the grimmer fashion excesses of the early Eighties. I had, in those days, a museum-standard collection of ethnic blouses, a glittery boob tube, a purple tank top, a flamenco-style frock from Wallis, and pair of navy jersey hotpants (very classical, I thought at the time), which I wore under a navy PVC trench coat.

I do remember wanting a white trouser suit quite badly. Whether it was the olive curve of Bianca Jagger's breast beneath the creamy jacket in her wedding pictures, or Faye Dunaway, looking elegantly murderous in pristine tailoring, that brought on the desire I cannot now recall. But I never did get one.

This will have been because my mother thought it would Show The Dirt. Open to persuasion on most subjects ("No, honestly, it *isn't* slit unsuitably high, Mummy. Oh don't be ridiculous, of course you can't see what colour they are. Well, what if I sewed it up a little bit?") she was implacable where showing the dirt was concerned.

In later life, the legacy of the maternal firm line on the impracticality of pale colours is clearly visible in my summer wardrobe, which spans the spectrum from dead white to ecru, putty, stone and taupe.

Embarking on the Great Spring Wardrobe Changeover, I am astounded every year by the luxurious monochrome heap that tumbles from its winter resting-place. Gracious me, I annually think. What lovely things. Now why do I never wear any of them? Closer inspection reveals why not: the indelible yellowish streaks on the front of the cashmere cardigan that I washed and left to dry in the glare of the sun; the abstract squiggle left by an expansive gesture with a felt-tip on the front of a cream silk tunic; the pavement-draggled hem of a pair of cloud-grey satin Oxford bags ... A riot of sullied purity enough to bring a smile to the lips of the Marquis de Sade. But each new season has found me, undeterred, adding to my pallid collection.

Until now. To my utter amazement, I find myself unmoved by the pages of white suits in the glossy magazines. I simply do not feel the need for this year's biggest catwalk hit. What is the matter with me? Am I growing old? Is the next step a hairdo like the Queen's and a collection of extra-wide-fitting shoes in navy leatherette with arch supports?

Examining my conscience, I really don't think so. It is not the trashiness of white suits that I don't fancy. On the contrary, I adore trash and only refrain from coming to work every day in a teeny-weeny Little Miss Trouble T-shirt because I know that my son, who has taken over from his grandfather as my very own sartorial policeman, on catching sight of it, would infallibly bellow, *You're not thinking of going out dressed like that, I hope.*

I think advancing years and motherhood must have turned me sentimental, because the thing that now strikes me about white suits is their shocking vulnerability. The sight of all that pristine blue-white acetate at Conran, and crunchy milk-white wool at MaxMara and the tender peach-bloom crêpe de Chine at Austin Reed reminds me of nothing so much as a maternity ward full of new-born babies whose skin you hardly dare expose to the harsh touch of the outside air, it is so new and fragile.

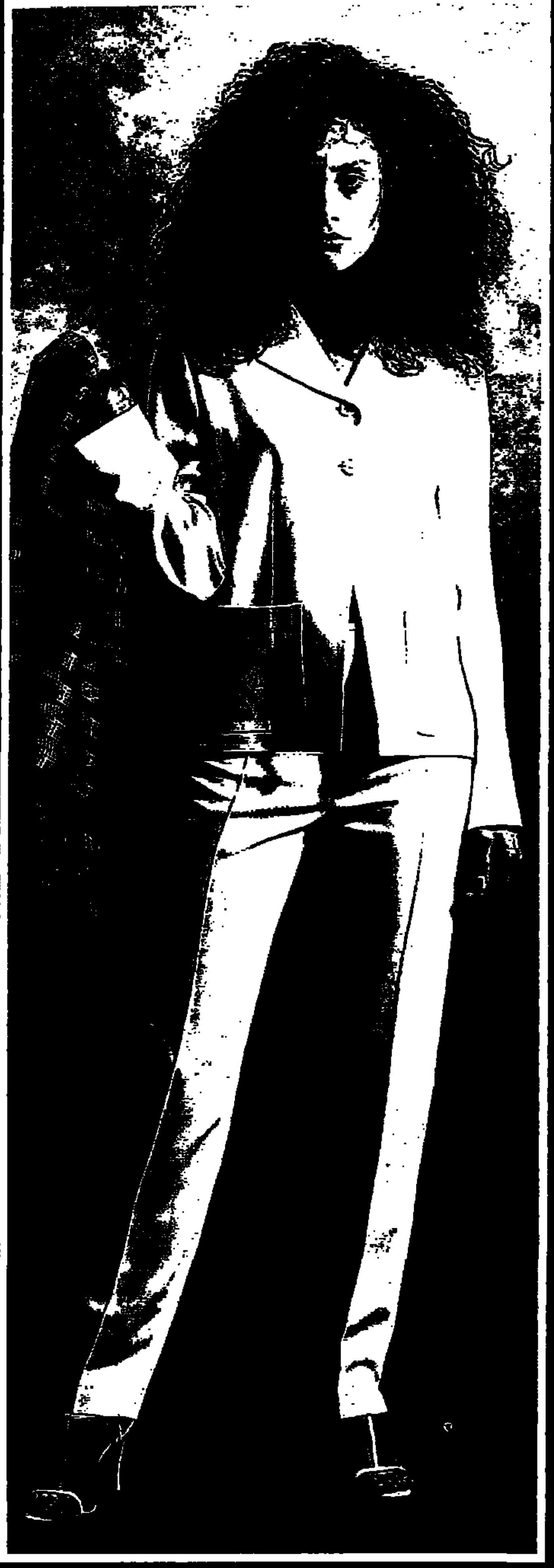
> 'I simply do not feel the need for this year's biggest catwalk hit'

They hang on the shop rails like perfect fruit, but if you look closely, the process of decay has already begun — a grubby fingermark on the lapel; a grimy tide-mark at the cuff; a smear of make-up at the collar. If they look like this in the shop, imagine how they'll be after half a day's wear.

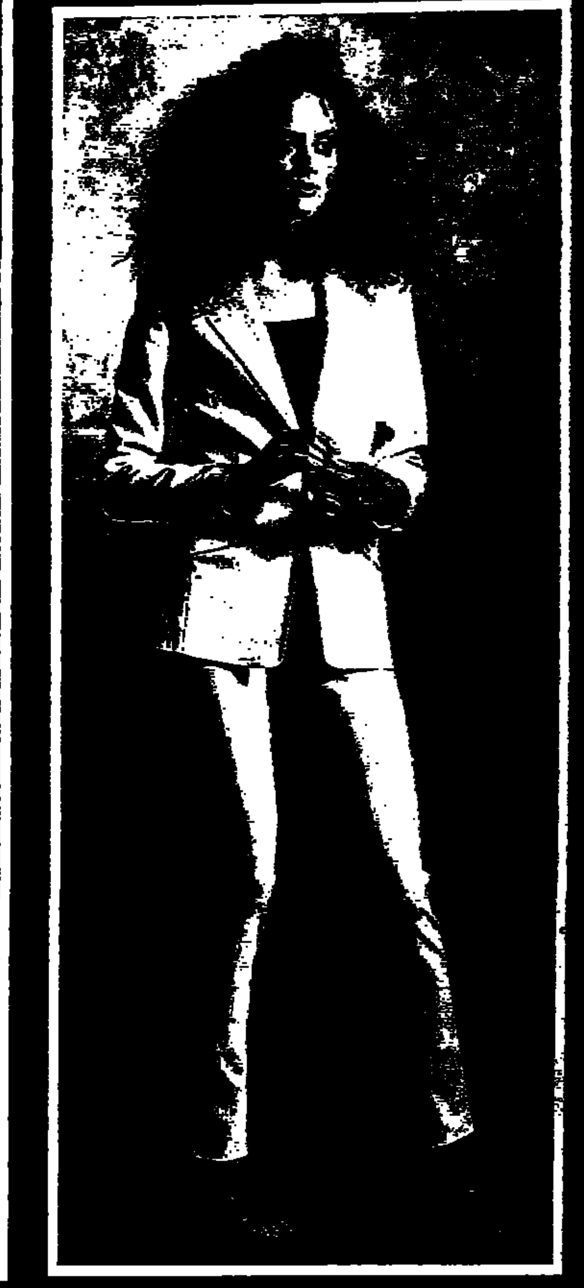
Most high fashion looks can be persuaded to reach some kind of comfortable accomodation with the quotidien — a longer skirt, a flesh-coloured lining ... But in this case, the only possible compromise involves a semi-permanent billet at the dry-cleaners, and being surrounded, when wearing it, by a disagreeable miasma of Scotchguard. White suits don't understand the word compromise. Their natural role is a once-only starring appearance at some human drama with a messy and inevitable outcome: an awards ceremony, a wedding — or a massacre.

White heat

Impractical but dazzling, the white trouser suit is a summer must. **Grace Bradberry**, Style Editor, chooses three of the best



Whistles jacket, £265, and trousers, £135



French Connection jacket, £143, and trousers, £70

John Richmond jacket, £338, and trousers, £163, Selfridges

PHOTOGRAPHER: Karl Grant; STYLIST: Deborah Brett; HAIR AND MAKE-UP: Denise Ruben; MODEL: [illegible]

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Why modelling is such a class act

NOT for a long time has class mattered so much in fashion. When designers choose a "face" for their advertising campaigns, the model's social pedigree, as well as her portfolio, appears to be under consideration. At one end of the spectrum there is Stella Tennant, granddaughter of the Duchess of Devonshire. At the other there's Jayne Windsor, a single mother of two who was talent-spotted by Select model agency on the streets of Newcastle.

What's fascinating is who's matching up with whom. After a year-long love affair with Stella Tennant, Chanel, whose image *is* as *haute* as haute couture gets, has switched tack altogether. The next advertising contract has gone to Karen Elson, a 19-year-old from Manchester, whose looks are the antithesis of aristocratic.

She has bone-white skin and a face like a porcelain doll — but with a hint of Oriental. Not everyone in the fashion world finds her brand of suburban *jolie laide* appealing, but Karl Lagerfeld, Chanel's designer, is clearly convinced. What's more curious is that Alexander McQueen, whose first Givenchy ready-to-wear line took suburban trash to the limit, should be courting Honor Fraser as his favoured "face".

True, they have been friends since McQueen started out, and true, Honor was a protege of McQueen's muse, Isabella Blow, but the sister of Lord Lovat remains the bluest of the blue bloods. She has been fostering a new "street" image, but retains the arrogant walk.

> 'Givenchy's favoured face is now Honor Fraser'

The one wild card left in the pack is John Galliano, head of Dior. As yet there is no "face" for the clothes, as opposed to the perfumes. But it can only be a matter of time before Galliano is forced to choose between 'umble and haute.

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'You've Been Famed'

Angus Deayton shows us how the stars got started. Interview by **Valerie Grove**

SVEN ARNSTEIN/STAY STILL

Angus Deayton won an award for "Most Promising Newcomer" on the fourteenth anniversary of his life in showbusiness

Before They Were Famous is such an obvious idea for a television show you wonder why it hasn't been done before. Videotapes of household names making their debuts on screen — a sort of "You've Been Famed", an *embarras* of embarrassment. Naturally the Americans thought of it first. But on Easter Monday Angus Deayton and the BBC will allow us to mock the on-screen beginnings of the rich and famous.

We shall see a schoolboy Michael Jagger scowling at the presenter of *Seeing Sport* in 1959, Peter Cook as an extra in the film *Bachelor of Hearts*, 1957, Clint Eastwood in a "Drink Milk" commercial in 1954; Ben Kingsley in *Coronation Street*, Steve Martin in the US equivalent of *Blind Date*, Joanna Lumley modelling cashmere, *David Bowie interviewed by* Cliff Michelmore — "You've got rather long hair" — in 1964: a prepubescent Naomi Campbell; Jeremy Irons on *Play Away*; Emma Thompson in a bikini.

Some are not embarrassing at all, they are just rather sweet, like old passport photographs: Stephen Fry wrestling with an answer on *University Challenge*; and Hugh Laurie as oarsman in the Cambridge crew on Boat Race Day.

"We've only scratched the surface," Deayton says. "As soon as we looked into it, we realised there's a wealth of material to be trawled through. Advertising agencies keep old tapes of people auditioning for commercials, aspiring actors play extras in sitcoms or characters in soaps."

A rich seam is mined in the footage of TV reporters before they acquired their cool: bikini-clad Sue Lawley interviewing on a beach, Kate Adie prancing in a mob cap, Jeremy Paxman wearing a vintage-1974 smirk and, perhaps most wonderfully of all, Anna Ford as a guitar-playing folk singer in 1969 when she was Union president at Manchester University.

Deayton's friend Nick Hancock is the programme's fall guy: it seems he once did ads for beer, wearing a simpering smile which "although I know and love Nick, still makes me want to punch Nick". But Deayton himself can be seen cavorting with a bowl of Crunchy Nut Cornflakes, and there are plenty more of those in his cupboard of skeletons.

Before he was famous, that is how Deayton got by. "Appearing on ads was what everyone did, as a struggling actor or comedian. I spent years and years doing things like that — awful commercials, loads of radio, and scriptwriting for other people — before anyone ever heard of me. I won an award for Most Promising Newcomer on the fourteenth anniversary of my life in showbusiness."

We are in the boardroom of Talkback, Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones's production company which handles Deayton's PR. (The comedy scene is now so interlinked with PR and production companies you wonder how they work out who gets 10 per cent of whom.) Angus does not have a production company: "It strikes me as too much like hard work — worrying about office rental space, secretaries and AGMs." But we know his newfound wealth has turned him into a big spender: he drives a Lexus coupé, and when he turned 40 last year he invited 100 friends to dine on oysters and lobster in the Eiffel Tower.

He is wearing funereal black, unlike the challenging jackets he wears on screen, and carrying a distressed briefcase borrowed from his girlfriend's mother.

The girlfriend, since the acrimonious split with Stephanie de Sykes, is the American scriptwriter Lise Mayer, whohe met 17 years ago on *The Young Ones* and with whom he now lives in Islington.

Deayton (like Ralph Fiennes, a name invariably mispronounced by the unwary; it rhymes with Beeton) grew up in Surrey, the indulged third of three sons of an insurance man and a schoolteacher. After Caterham School, he read modern languages at New College, Oxford, where he did no performing until his fellow undergraduate and budding scriptwriter Richard Curtis (*Four Weddings, Blackadder*) said someone had dropped out, could he come to the Edinburgh Festival? Deayton says he has never been more terrified in his life, but he acquired the taste for comic performance.

When the first series of Have I Got News For You? started in 1990, Deayton was again a last-minute stand-in when John Lloyd decided not to present it. Opportunity knocked for Angus Deayton at 35. He was known to radio comedy aficionados, but his profile was decidedly low. "I'd always played the parody game-show host and presenter" — in *Radio Active* on Radio 4, and as "Mike Channel" the anchorman of *KYTV* — "so it was odd to do it for real. With an element of pastiche of course." After two series, his deadpan delivery of carefully scripted adlibs (in a manner often described as pedagogic, contrasting with the unruly, anarchic rude boys Ian Hislop and Paul Merton) began to achieve for him something quite unexpected: crumpet status.

"I remember thinking that this must be what attractive women have to put up with all the time — getting stared at in the street. People think the screen is *still* there and point a finger in your face and say 'You're Angus Deayton', or talk about you loudly as if you're not there. Some deal with this better than others: Alexei Sayle isn't at all bothered, but Rowan Atkinson is cripplingly shy. I'm *somewhere in between:* fighting fit shy. At times I just feel it would be nice to get away to Phuket." Living well is the best revenge: he and Lise flew off yesterday for Easter on the beaches of Phuket.

Perhaps it is fair that a cavalier exploiter of others' notoriety should have been bruised by the glare fame. "We never set out to undermine anyone; but the audience decides whether they like someone within five minutes." They loved Jennifer Paterson; they did not love Piers Morgan. "Politicians get the worst ride; but Charles Kennedy said that being seen to do well on HIGNFY was worth ten political broadcasts — people told him later they'd vote for him. We once got hauled over the coals for having too many Labour MPs, so we invited the entire Tory Cabinet but they all declined. Do you think Tony or John would do the show in the next few weeks?"

Next Monday's show will doubtless be *the first of many*. "*It will be clip-led, as we* say in the business. When we have enough clips we'll do another one — a bit like *It'll be Alright On The Night*." The clip I'd like to see is Deayton with Phil Pope and Michael Fenton Stevens, singing *Meaningless Songs in Very High Voices*, a spoof BeeGees act (the HeeBeeGeeBees) which got them into the Australian hit parade in the early 1980s: but that was before he was famous.

● Before They Were Famous, *BBC1, Easter Monday, 9pm.*

A good intention that has gone awry

The muddle over Ms

If I'm being honest, I have to say I don't much care if I'm called Miss, Mrs or Ms. That's not to say I think it doesn't matter. Obviously how we name people, the way in which we categorise them, has significance. Make too much of that nowadays, though, and you're dead meat. Business and Professional Women UK — an organisation no one's ever heard of before — comes out strongly against the would-be universal female title Ms, claiming it smacks of Seventies feminism, all overt aggression, hairy legs and baggy dungarees, and everyone is falling over themselves to say how much they despise the term, have nothing but contempt for it and its coinage and are only too happy to give it up.

Perhaps it was slightly disingenuous to say that I didn't care what people call me. It's true that I don't mind so much how I'm styled, but it does rankle that I'm asked in the first place. When Ms was introduced to the language of officialese, the idea was well-*intentioned: there* should be a way of addressing — identifying — women who didn't define or describe themselves in terms of their relationship with men. (Interestingly, the coinage of the term was not political, but economic: it was formulated, apparently, by mail-order companies in 1950s America to cut costs.)

Nigella Lawson

But no sooner was the formula officially adopted in the Seventies, *that it* was sneered at from a great height. And who's surprised? I'm not referring to the inevitability of anti-feminism either. Even if you're basically well-disposed, as I am, it's impossible to ignore the sheer idiocy of introducing — as a *simplifying* factor — an unpronouncable appellation. It sounds ridiculous, so it is easy to see why it has been ridiculed.

But underneath the idea makes sense. And I emphasise, the idea was not to suggest that marriage is a bad thing and, that one should therefore avoid having a tag that denoted the married state. Nor was it to imply that by distinguishing between single and married women, one was somehow cruelly drawing attention to the pitiable and lacking status of the former. The message behind Ms, if you like, was this: men are not addressed differently depending on whether *they're married or not; nor should* women be.

The fuss everyone made! The fuss they continue to make. Anyone would think they were forced to adopt this ungainsayably clumsy mode of address. But no one is. And of course they shouldn't be, but once the term, any term, is not universal, then it cannot make sense. When I'm filling out a form, which obliges me to describe my status, it makes a mockery of having "Ms" if it is just an option, rather than the usual female title. In other words, I am being asked to tick whether I'm single, married or just a bolshy cow. I go for bolshy cow every time.

Even if, as the Business and Professional Women UK organisation seems to want, "Miss" is chosen as universal designator of women, it'll make no difference: forms will still say "Miss", "Mrs" or "other". So *what's the point?* But maybe one can never change things that affect people deeply (and what could affect people more deeply than what they are called?) by such artificial and official means.

But I suspect there has to be some change soon, and one that will come about organically. A great many women, like myself, are not changing their names on marriage. When I give my name for whatever official purpose, I am irritated by being asked "Miss or Mrs?" (I always answer "whichever you like"), but I am flummoxed, too. After all, the truth is I *am* married, but I use what's called my single *name*, although I prefer to call it, simply, my name. (When I was in hospital after my first baby, my brother came to visit me and arrived eventually at the ward, having had arguments with reception about whether I existed. At last he found me, as he exasperatedly told me, "under your *own name*".)

All that makes it very difficult, I do see: it's confusing for everyone. I agree it *doesn't really matter* what's settled upon, Miss or Mrs: I agree that Ms is out of the question: impossible in ordinary speech, it can be used only ironically. On the whole, and because I wear a wedding ring, I am called Mrs. This is fine by me, although I am aware of the Freudian implications of having a name that makes one sound as if one could be married to one's own father.

Irritated though I am by suggestions that what is wrong with Ms is that it makes us sound like nasty, men-hating *feminists*, it is true that it hasn't worked. I still hold that it is significant how we are styled, but I accept that it's better to take the Battling Barbara line. While serving on a committee, Dame Barbara Castle was asked whether she preferred to be known as "chairman" or "chairwoman". "I don't care what I'm called," she replied, "as long as I'm in charge".

It appears that father-of-the-year Michael Jackson — stung by suggestions that his marriage might be a complete sham — is at some pains to show that it, the baby and his new family life are all completely straight up. It's all, he tells *OK!* this week, absolutely genuine. To prove it, he claims having a new baby is bliss "24 hours a day" — evidence if ever I heard it that things might not quite be for real.

Party politics Oscar-style

Stars clamour to be seen at the right awards bash, says **Giles Whittell**

A FUNNY thing happened in Los Angeles on Monday night: 5,500 film luminaries descended on the Shrine Auditorium to behold three hours of footage, Oscar presentations and awkward thank-you speeches. Then 800 waiters offered them caviar and lobster in a vast banquet hall decorated with Hawaiian Rothschild orchids at $15 a flower. *But instead of gorging*, the Oscar people fled. By 10.15pm the sumptuous venue of the Governor's Ball was a place of also-rans and cleaner-uppers.

Why the sudden exodus? *Could it have been fear of* being stuck in notorious South-Central LA, where the Oscars were *handed out?* Probably not. It was, more likely, a vivid illustration of the fact that stars hate being anywhere where everyone's invited.

The basic rule of Oscar night etiquette is to escape the compulsory Governor's Ball as fast as decently possible, *put in "face time" at any* studio party to which you may have a professional obligation, then lose your hangers-on and make for the parties that *matter*.

This year that rule spelt chaos. In an horrendous bottleneck of frayed tempers and gridlocked limousines, more contenders than ever before converged on a cruelly short list of acceptable post-post-Oscar parties.

There were really only two-and-a-half places to be seen. *Clinging to pole position for the fourth year running*, a Beverly Hills brasserie called Morton's provided the locale for *Vanity Fair* magazine's shamelessly snooty celebration of what it calls America's "bi-coastal power elite". From Mel Gibson to ex-presidential spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers, their names were flashed in lights onto the restaurant's walls as they alighted at the kerb.

IN SECOND place was the less exclusive but marginally trendier bash thrown by Miramax films at the Mondrian hotel on Sunset Boulevard for the casts and crews of *Sling Blade* and *The English Patient*.

That left only one studio party worth pointing your limo at: a Columbia/TriStar

Celebrating: *Fargo* stars

extravaganza at the Eclipse, whose young chef, Serge Falesitch, had the daunting task of persuading Tom Cruise (*Jerry Maguire*) and Woody Harrelson (*The People vs Larry Flynt*) to linger rather than stray across the road to Morton's. Mr Falesitch spared no expense, flying in, among other things, two sushi chefs from Tokyo and 400 specially harvested Florida crab claws at $5 each.

But Morton's was still the place.

This year the guest list included billionaires David Geffen and Barry Diller, the Australian Ambassador to Washington (accompanied by Shirley MacLaine), Karl Lagerfeld's muse, Lady Harlech, David Hockney, Valentino and all the Oscar nominees, every one of whom RSVP'd "yes".

For the likes of Tom Cruise and Ms *Scott Thomas*, when to slide out of your "own" party and make for Morton's is a question that redefines the term social conscience. Qualms are for wimps, and Cruise showed he has none. *He prompted frantic rear*rangement of the Eclipse event by inviting, at the last minute, 40 extra friends for dinner. Yet still Cruise deserted them after the briefest of look-ins and headed for the vastly more rarefied schmoozing on offer at Morton's.

The Oscar show always holds the seeds of anti-climax in what follows. Like sheep caught in headlights, winners are badgered by endless television crews for instant soundbites on their fame and future. Losers are subdued. Everyone else spends too much of the night in the world's most luxurious traffic jam. Even so, be sure that by the time you read this, a still-hungover Hollywood will have begun again the year-long struggle to get on the list that counts, *next* time.

MEDIA
How OK! won the battle for Michael Jackson
Page 23

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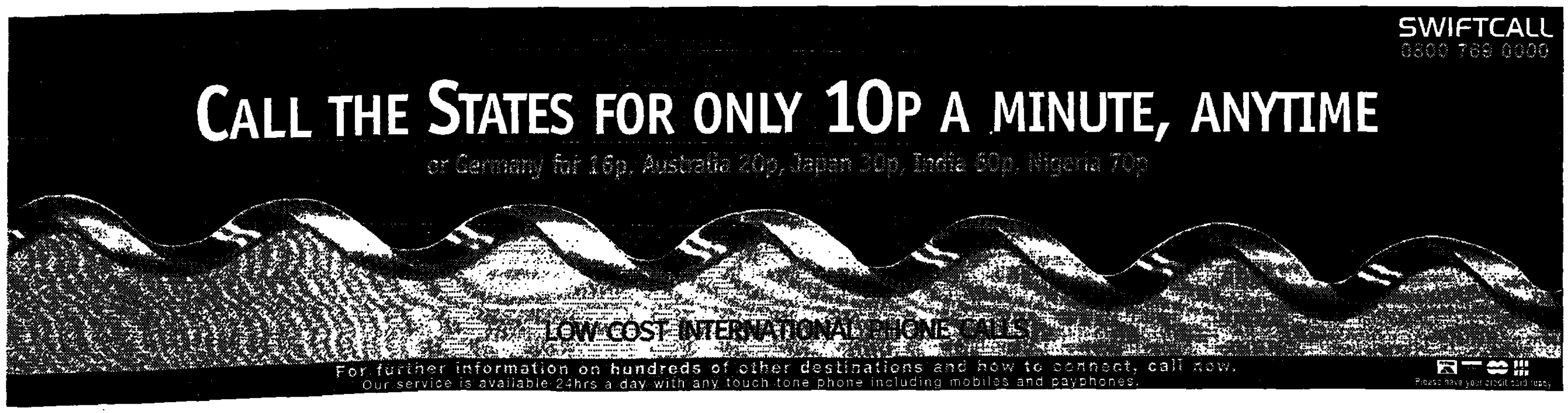

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Alan Coren

■ Suddenly, all manner of ravening creatures want me to throw them money

While I may not be able to speak with any authority about the effect of the election announcement on those who do business in great waters, I have to tell you that, in the little pond of Cricklewood, it seems to have generated a quite extraordinary feeding frenzy. Suddenly, all manner of ravening creatures have risen from the murky depths and begun breaking the surface with their snapping jaws. They want me to throw them money. They want me to throw it to them right this minute. If I do not run instantly to the bin in which the stuff is kept and start chucking it at them by the fistful, the creatures will not be able to answer for the consequences, come May 2.

For a start, my windows will fall out. I know this, because last Thursday night, even as I was raising the soup spoon to my lip, the phone rang. It was a creature called Colin. Colin wanted me to know that his highly trained operatives would be in my area the next day, desperate to fit my entire house with new windows before it was too late. When I inquired as to what too late meant, Colin explained that too late meant Tony Blair. Colin, he went on, was generously prepared to re-glaze my house before the inflation which would inevitably follow a Labour victory sent costs rocketing. When I replied that not even John Major had tried to frighten the life out of us with what, if the worst came to the worst, would happen to putty prices, Colin began telling me more about glazing economics than I wished to know, and I returned to my minestrone.

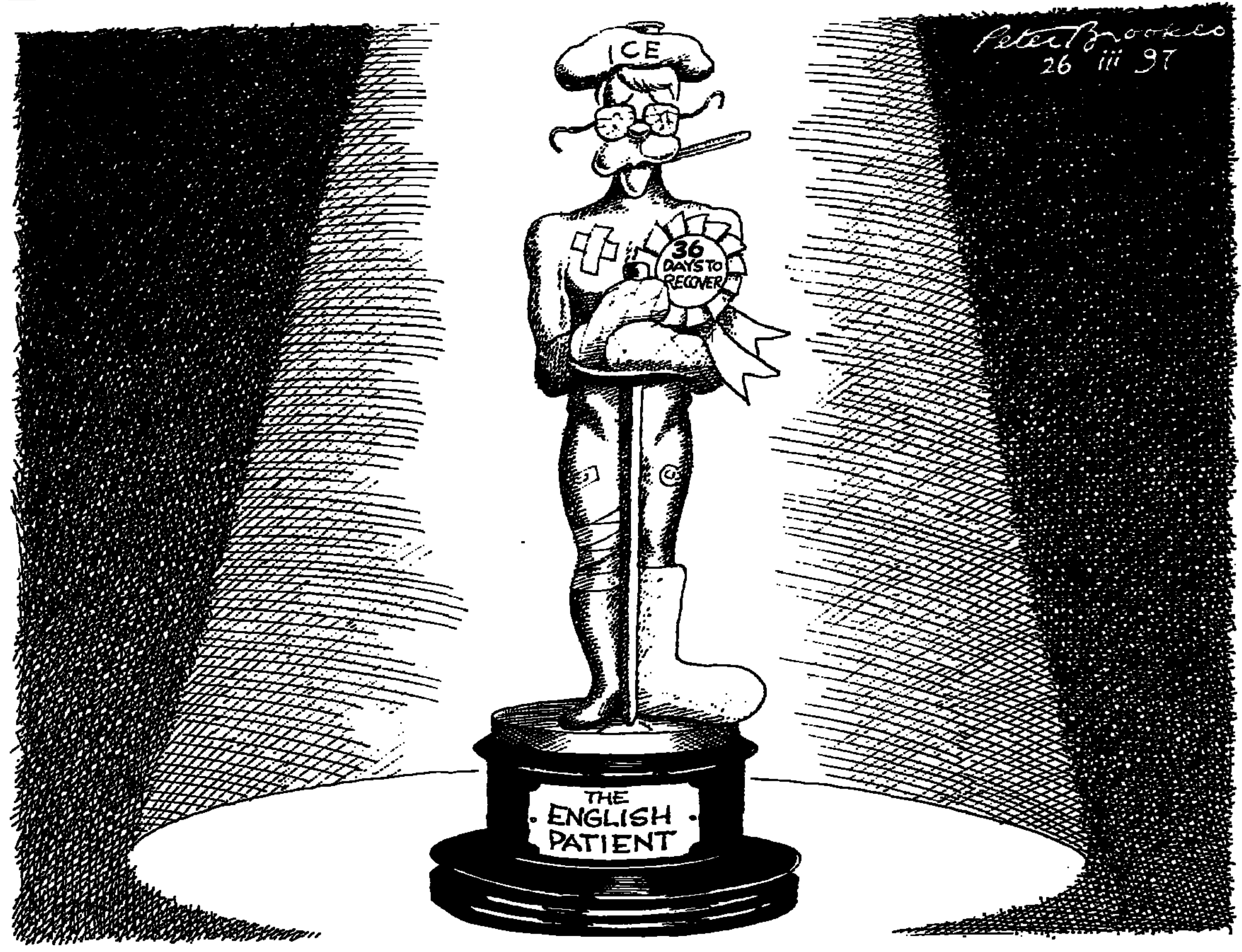
An hour later — I swear this, ask my wife — I was about to pour a second cup of coffee when the phone rang again and another creature urged me — not only for my own sake, but for that of my children and my children's children — to invest in the creature's personal equity plan immediately because it was a well-known fact that the first thing New Labour would do would be to abolish PEP tax-exemption.

To get rid of him before the coffee chilled, I told him I would think about it, which was a great mistake because, half an hour later (this is now 9.30, by the way), he rang back to ask not only whether I had finished thinking, but also to bang on about moving money offshore, in so conspiratorial a tone as to conjure up a snapshot of the pair of us, faces blacked and oars muffled against new Labour's shore batteries, rowing frantically away from Penzance, bound for Grand Cayman on the May 2 tide.

The phone did not ring again that night, but the letter box clattered. There was a leaflet on the mat; or rather, three leaflets, the deliverer clearly wishing to call it a day, despite the need for all hands to get to the pump before Tony Blair's did. The leaflets had been dispatched by a local firm of landscape gardeners who were pitching their sales into the self-same area of rough just outside new Labour's off-stump; ie, I could deceive Gordon Brown's hidden agenda for sending landscaping bills through the roof by the canny sleight of getting mine done right now.

Landscaping? In Cricklewood? A range of hills where the back fence once leaned, sheep grazing the water meadow in lieu of my nice shed, a river flowing where we used to have a place to keep the wheelie bins, probably with a hay wain in it? I don't want any of that, it would only attract artists and ramblers and similar riff-raff, and I particularly don't want it for no better reason than to put one over on the incoming administration; any more than I want, as I have been invited to want in this morning's post, a new car at a price the dealer will be "unable to guarantee after May 1", for reasons unspecified, although gently hinted at by an ill-cobbled photo of Tony Blair with an L-plate round his neck.

I've been thinking about all this, and the more I think, the less certain I am that it is just the last knockings of an enterprise culture eager to get its two penn'orth in (or, rather, out) before the Götterdämmerung. Might not huckstering of a far more sophisticated order lie behind each cold-call and mailshot, its sole purpose being to make our flesh creep? I cannot yet say, but if I do spot a Reliant Robin out there with flanks that clarion "Saatchi Bros, No Job Too Large Or Small, Let Us Quote You", I'll be in touch.



A nation of Lottery Losers

Daniel Johnson says John Major will be remembered for making gamblers of us all. That will be his downfall

To those with their wits about them, it is evident that we are living through extraordinary times. This is one of the greatest political upheavals in our history. Tony Blair is about to win a victory which, by its sheer scale, will mark an epoch, just as 1945 or 1906 did. In retrospect, though, I suspect that historians will say that the British sleepwalked uncomprehendingly into a new era. We can all see why, after 18 years in office, the Tories might be facing defeat; but why are they facing catastrophe? We need an explanatory framework within which to grasp the inchoate but extreme revulsion which the British now feel towards this Government. To do that, one must answer the question: what makes the Major years memorable?

It seems so long ago that Essex Man bestrode the political landscape like a cheeky colossus, even if he was only the old phenomenon of the working-class Tory. Margaret Thatcher had unleashed a momentous transformation of economy and society, and John Major's victory in 1992, symbolised by the endorsement of the voters of Basildon, marked the institutionalisation of Thatcherism. It was a permanent revolution. But it was not what she and her disciples had wanted: a remoralisation of society. Self-interest proved to be anything but enlightened.

Already by the early 1990s the sense of disappointed expectations was palpable. The trouble was not just that many people had been ruined in the recession. Too many people had tasted the forbidden fruit of speculation on property or shares, had extended their horizons beyond their means, had cultivated habits of consumption they could not sustain. Her Victorian values — virtue would bring its own reward, that self-denial and self-help were the only path to prosperity — no longer fitted the national mood. To placate Essex Man, John Major broke with one of the lady's Methodist taboos, that on gambling. He offered a modern version of Caesar's bread and circuses: the National Lottery. That was his greatest mistake.

It is for the lottery that John Major will be remembered. Had it flopped, it would soon have been forgotten. But the lottery was a great success — on its own terms. And that meant a nation addicted to gambling, consumed by the tantalising prospect of instant gratification. Most people have fantasised about coming into a fortune. Some do it incessantly. For them, the lottery was irresistible. It became the darling of the tabloids, for which it generated an endless supply of throwaway celebrities. Half the population eagerly threw itself into the new national pastime: the other half threw its hands up in mock horror, but was appeased by the promise of limitless largesse for the arts and charities. The lottery permeated British consciousness, reaching into every area of life with its new rituals, and promised a great party at the millennium, as a kind of collective lottery prize.

It was predictable that this audacious attempt to bribe the electorate with its own money would backfire. "It could be you", announced the advertisements — but it never was. One or two clever fellows with a grasp of mathematics, such as Professor Tim Congdon, warned us from the start that only a fool would waste his money on the lottery, that the odds were loaded against the punter — that it was, in short, a state-sponsored confidence trick — but they were ignored. Predictably, the British preferred to blame those in charge rather than themselves. Camelot and its regulator soon became extremely unpopular. The press pandered to public envy of lottery winners, whose morals were no worse than average. Always a tiny minority, they enjoy no respect because — lacking any merit but luck — they deserve none.

More ominously for the Government, there was outrage at the use of lottery proceeds for Covent Garden, the purchase of the Churchill papers and high culture generally. There was no enthusiasm even for the millennium festivities. As hard-earned cash was squandered on the lottery, and there was less for other entertainments or even necessities, the national mood turned ugly. Unsuccessful gamblers blame their own luck for only so long. After a while they blame the croupier. Then they blame the casino.

> 'It could be you', said the ads — but it never was

The British have become a nation of Lottery Losers, filled with resentment against those in authority or who are more fortunate. That mentality has spread through private and public life to an extent that is only now becoming apparent. We cannot kick the habit. But we despise ourselves and those who degraded us. The lottery has created more millionaires since its inception than industry. That has corrupted the work ethic, and with it the basis of Thatcherism. The change was prefigured by the ruin of countless middle-class families on the insurance market at Lloyd's, hitherto a kind of upper-class lottery. But the legitimisation of gambling by the lottery has allowed through the back door the politics of envy which Thatcherism tried to abolish.

Those who made a fast buck used to be admired by Essex Man. In recent years they have become the objects of envy, and in many cases are vilified. The fat cats of the privatised industries and well-to-do Tory MPs are the obvious cases. But the psychology of the Lottery Loser — for whom the link between effort and reward has been broken — influences our reaction to countless other *dramatis personae* in public life, and that in turn contributes to the cry: "Time for a change." Nick Leeson, for instance, is blamed less than his superiors at Barings, who did not go to prison. Greedy bankers or traders — unwilling to forgo their bonuses when the markets do not deliver, or flouncing out when their careers do not go to plan — prompt the Lottery Loser to dismiss the City as a gravy train or a scam.

The feeling that everybody else is making huge amounts of money without an honest day's work has been fed by the cult of celebrity in sport or showbiz. The Lottery Loser is less impressed by their achievements, and the hard work that goes into them, than by their bad behaviour. He resents their success and their ability to offend with impunity. Again: the endless claims for "compensation" — whether for physical or psychological injury, bad investments, discrimination, defamation or mere inconvenience — are grist to the mill of the Lottery Loser. Likewise, the creatures of tabloid celebrity, from kiss-and-tell sneaks to the Mandy Allwoods. You can make a fortune out of misfortune, the Lottery Loser wryly concludes. None of it is fair — least of all the revenge he will wreak on the Government.

The authority of business, entertainment and the law may have suffered grievously. But the Lottery Loser's boundless cynicism and resentment is chiefly directed at politics and politicians — above all the Tories. And it is here that Tony Blair and new Labour stand to gain. Objectively, the parties have never been closer in ideology or policy. If the electorate prefers one to the other, one might expect that preference to be marginal, as it was in 1964 or 1974. Instead, a landslide is in prospect. Mr Major will be the victim of the lottery mentality he has fostered. The British are on the brink of their biggest political gamble in living memory.

Mr Blair's talk of morality and community has a subliminal appeal to the Lottery Loser. The addict yearns to be cured; the loser longs to regain his self-respect. New Labour appeals to those who despair of any pattern in success or failure, who see wealth as randomly distributed and want a premium on effort. But the gambler wants to be a winner even more than he dislikes being a loser. The unfairness of which the loser complains — no bonanza, not even a free lunch — is unlikely to change very much under Labour, any more than the lottery itself. The chippiness which is now leading the Lottery Loser to lash out at the Tories may quickly turn him against a Labour government which dashes his hopes of a jackpot.

The Citizen King of France, Louis-Philippe, had a prime minister, the great historian François Guizot, who replied to those who objected to his property franchise (which gave the vote only to the bourgeoisie): "*Enrichissez vous!*" But the people would not wait to get richer. In 1848 they had a revolution and ejected their conservative premier along with his King. We are no less impatient. Essex Man used not to *mind* being told to get richer. But the Lottery Loser takes it as a personal insult. On May 1 the father of the lottery will himself become the biggest loser of all.

Ethelburga rises from the ashes

Richard Chartres says the City church will now be restored

St Ethelburga's Church in the City of London survived the Great Fire and the Blitz, but it was blown to pieces by the Bishopsgate bomb on April 24, 1993. The church was one of many victims of violence which sprang from a sectarian and communal divide. This week, a group of Christian partners, stepping over confessional boundaries, have vowed to rebuild St Ethelburga's as a Centre for Reconciliation and Peace.

Yesterday, Cardinal Hume, the Rev Janet Sowerbutts, a moderator in the United Reformed Church, and I stood among the ruins of the church, trying to picture how the new centre will relate to the very substantial fragments of St Ethelburga's that survive. The site is only a tenth of an acre and the restored façade will be dwarfed by the cliffs of the business houses in Bishopsgate. But the small and unthreatening can be a potent force in the work of reconciliation and peacemaking.

Ethelburga, herself, was the sister of the 20th Bishop of London, St Erconwald, who built the Bishop's Gate (from which the street takes its name) in 685. As an Abbess, Ethelburga was particularly venerated for her heroic conduct during one of the periodic bouts of plague in London.

The church is no stranger to religious strife. One of its rectors in the mid-16th century died a martyr's death at Tyburn for refusing to accept Henry VIII's supremacy. More auspiciously, this was the church in which Henry Hudson, the navigator, and his companions made their final communion on English soil in 1607 before setting out to discover the Northwest Passage.

The IRA bomb exploded only 15 yards from St Ethelburga's. The journalist Edward Henty was killed in the attack and 51 others were injured. Though earlier reports suggested that destruction was total, substantial elements of the medieval chuch were left standing. The north, south and east walls largely survived the blast. The explosion did not cause a fire, so stone mouldings, timber and fittings survived in fragments of varying sizes. The latest archaeological reports reveal that the timber framework of the medieval belfry tower which looked on to Bishopsgate, could be reconstructed.

After the bombing, sorting of the remains was carried out with the assistance of the Corporation of London, English Heritage, and the archaeological services of the Museum of London. Much of the material was removed to another City church, All Hallows, London Wall.

Discussions have been going on ever since to decide what the future for St Ethelburga's should be. *The Times* and its readers, in particular, have insisted that the continuities of St Ethelburga's be respected. I believe that the proposal for the Centre for Reconciliation and Peace — which will incorporate the surviving fabric, so far as possible, and most importantly rebuild the façade on Bishopsgate — does reflect the continuities as well as offering a new future for St Ethelburga's.

The general concept is that there should be enhanced public access to the church, which would continue to be a place for prayer, worship and quiet reflection. At the same time, the intention is to create a facility providing both a meeting place and office accommodation to create a centre dedicated to work in the field of reconstruction and peace with an emphasis on the spiritual dimension of peacemaking.

The plan is to operate an advocacy and mediation service, as well as offering practical support and counselling for victims of terrorism, conflict and torture. With the City of London established as a world leader in consultancies of various kinds, St Ethelburga's is appropriately placed to develop a new style of consultancy in mediation. Discussions are already well advanced with the former hostages, John McCarthy and Terry Waite, and with other advisers about the development of the centre's programme. As well as the rebuilt St Ethelburga's, incorporating a small sanctuary, there will be a memorial garden, dedicated to the victims of violence and to the peacemakers. There may be a permanent exhibition on the theme of reconciliation, featuring the lives of those who have suffered from terrorism but are examples of the power of reconciliation.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the rebuilding programme is undertaken in the manner that respects the historical significance of the church, while providing it with an imaginative and purposeful future: "a place of hopeful pilgrimage". During the gestation period, the concept has been enriched by many positive suggestions from a cross-section of London citizens.

Once more detailed plans are available, it may be necessary to launch an appeal later in the year. A previous scheme for the site was costed at £3 million and obviously it would not be responsible to ask for contributions before a more detailed financial picture was available. Early indications, however, of very substantial interest in the proposal encourage me to think that the vision will be realised.

It was very good indeed to meet fellow Christians in Holy Week to make together a small contribution to building that peace of God which is so much more than a mere absence of war and violence. St Ethelburga's destroyed is an example of what can happen if we do nothing. St Ethelburga's restored will be a sign of hope.

The author is the Bishop of London.

THE TIMES DIARY

Betty to bat

THERE will be no space for bad manners or designer stubble among cricketers visiting the Oval this year. Surrey County Cricket Club next month becomes the first county to have a woman as its president, and she is not the sort to put up with loutish behaviour.

At the club's annual general meeting on April 14, the current president, John Paul Getty, will hand over the reins to Betty Surridge, the Betty Boothroyd of the cricket square.

Betty Surridge: game girl

The widow of the former Surrey captain and cricket bat-maker Stuart Surridge, Betty is described by friends as a "game girl who likes a glass of wine and will liven up the buffers of Surrey no end". Henry Blofeld, the radio commentator, described her appointment as tremendous news. "A wonderful lady, although I've no idea about her batting average."

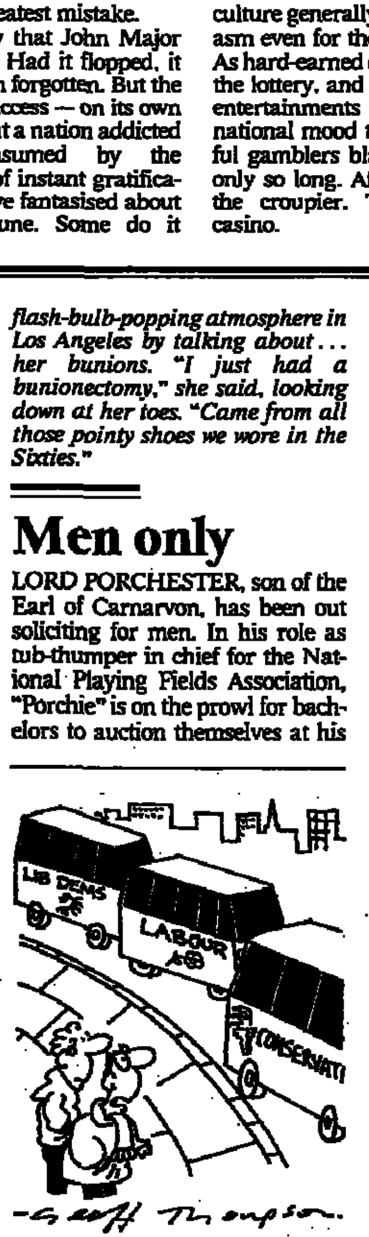
Betty says she does not play cricket, although she spoke highly of the club's most prominent supporter. "I know John and Norma Major very well," she said yesterday. "He loves his cricket and actually supported Surrey when my husband was captain. Stuart met him several times."

One of her first outings will be to a six-a-side tournament involving female cricketers and the Lady Taverners charity. Should John Major no longer be Prime Minister, he could find himself handing out the prizes.

● *Those Redgraves certainly know how to deflate the glamour of Hollywood's Oscars night. A few years back Vanessa threw a communist tantrum. This year it was the turn of Lynn, who co-starred in* Shine *and who celebrated the flash-bulb-popping atmosphere in Los Angeles by talking about . . . her bunions. "I just had a bunionectomy," she said, looking down at her toes. "Came from all those pointy shoes we wore in the Sixties."*

Men only

LORD PORCHESTER, son of the Earl of Carnarvon, has been out soliciting for men. In his role as tub-thumper in chief for the National Playing Fields Association, "Porchie" is on the prowl for bachelors to auction themselves at his "Bid for Bachelors" evening later this year. So far, the line-up looks familiar: the confirmed bachelor Christopher Biggins, the wifelet-collecting Marquess of Bath and that old slut Peter Stringfellow. As Porchester points out to prospective bachelors "you don't even need to be a 'bachelor' in the strict sense of the term."



"You wait ages for one battle bus, then three turn up"

Right pair

FIRST in line for French designer Jean Paul Gaultier's venture into haute couture are Joan Collins and her daughter, Tara Newley. At dinner in Daphne's in Chelsea on Friday night it was decided that they would both wear JPG frocks when Miss Newley marries in Paris this June. They insist that their decision bears no comparison with the Duchess of York's rather sinister habit of dressing up her daughters in mini versions of her own outfits.

Joan Collins, more commonly associated with big hair and shoulder pads than Gaultier's trademark conical bras, will wear a brightly coloured, extremely tight-fitting, off-the-shoulder number. Miss Newley may fade away beside her, in a rather more demure oyster-coloured frock with scalloped shoulders and long gloves.

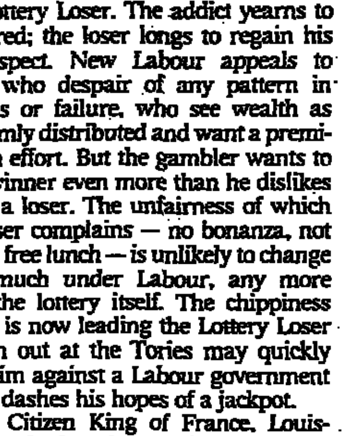
Original sin

LABOUR'S education spokesman, David Blunkett, let slip the origin of Tony Blair's soundbite about "education, education, education".

"We got the education slogan from a poll that North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council engaged in last year," Blunkett told the Association of Teachers and Lecturers. "They found that 43 per cent thought sex was the most enjoyable thing. The remaining 57 per cent put education."

Manor born

THERE is consolation for Mike Leigh, the lugubrious film director thwarted in all five of his Oscar nominations for *Secrets and Lies*. Earlier this week, I reported that stiffies had been dispatched by Brockett Hall, inviting all the babies who were born there during the war, when it housed an evacuated East End maternity home, to a tea party on April 12. Leigh's mother read the piece and contacted Brockett Hall to secure an invitation for her son, who was born in the ballroom there in 1943.



Leigh: born in a ballroom

Speaking from her home in Salford, Phyllis Leigh, a former midwife, remembers her son as being a "healthy, rumbustious baby". She recalls: "He last visited when his then wife, Alison Steadman, was playing Mrs Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*, which filmed there last year. I think he'll want to go back to see all those old faces."

P·H·S

CHEER UP, MR BROWN

Tory reforms have made Britain safe for faster growth

If there is one issue on which the Tories and Labour ought to agree on it is the good performance of the British economy. Of course, things could always be better: economic growth could be a little higher, unemployment could be still lower, the quality of available jobs could be better and inflation could be somewhat below the Government's 2.5 per cent target instead of a smidgeon above. On balance, however, the British economy has enjoyed a strong and well balanced recovery since John Major abandoned the foolish economic policy which all the main political parties fervently supported in the last election — the commitment to keep sterling in the ERM.

Surprisingly, it could be in the interests of the Labour Party, as well as the Tories, to emphasise this economic success. For the Conservatives, the need to gain credit for good economic performance is obvious. Less obviously, but more importantly, it is also in Labour's interests to talk the economy up, instead of down.

There are three reasons for this, none of them understood by the ever-lugubrious Gordon Brown. First, there are the worries of voters who have turned against the Tories for non-economic reasons but will become increasingly anxious about their personal prosperity under Labour once the election campaign intensifies. The more confident these people feel about the durability of the economic recovery, the less nervous they may become about giving Labour a chance. Secondly, Mr Brown should realise that his party's ability to achieve its ambitions in office will depend entirely on the strength of the economy. If Mr Brown really believes that the economic recovery "could be short-lived" and "is not built on solid foundations", as he said again yesterday, then Labour cannot be believed in any of its promises to improve health and education without raising the burden of tax.

This leads to the third and most important reason why Mr Brown must be made to understand that the present economic expansion really is fundamentally sound. If Mr Brown ever becomes Chancellor he will have a critical responsibility for maintaining the pace of the recovery by managing economic demand. As our Economics Editor explains on page 31, it is now widely accepted by economists of most theoretical persuasions — including the pragmatic former monetarists running the US Federal Reserve Board and the International Monetary Fund — that governments and central banks must take responsibility for the proper management of economic demand.

Ironically, the main reason for the resurgence of confidence in managing demand to maintain full employment has been the trade-union reform, labour-market deregulation and privatisation of the Thatcher and Reagan periods. These have made economies more efficient and far less prone to inflation. In a sense, the right-wing reforms have made the world safe again for a cautious version of the traditionally left-wing policies of full employment, albeit with a crucial difference. The emphasis today is on the use of interest rates to manage demand. Few would advocate the old-fashioned Keynesian remedy of swelling government borrowing to create jobs.

Unfortunately, Mr Brown does not seem to understand any of this. On the contrary, he argues that the 18 years of Tory policy have undermined Britain's ability to sustain non-inflationary growth. He promises to increase Britain's long-term growth rate by improving training or encouraging investment; but these measures, even if they proved successful, would have no perceptible effects on Britain's productive capacity for many years to come. Until then Mr Brown, if he were sincere in his pessimism about Britain's incapacity to grow without creating inflation, he would have to take steps to depress demand by raising taxes or interest rates. Far from creating jobs, the Treasury and Bank of England acting on Mr Brown's gloomy precepts, would be duty bound to try to prevent unemployment from falling or even to push it up. If only the Tories could convey this message to the public, they might yet turn macroeconomic management into a potent electoral issue.

CZARS AND THEIR EMPIRES

American experience cautions against an anti-drugs supremo

There are many important social issues that receive too little emphasis in elections dominated by economics. Tony Blair's evident interest in attacking drug abuse is an honourable exception. The solution that Mr Blair outlined yesterday — the appointment of an anti-drugs supremo or "czar" — to lead the "war on drugs" may not, though, prove the best instrument for his intentions.

Not for the first time Mr Blair has looked to the United States for both ideas and language. His model, in its formal title, is the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which was established there in 1989 as a post of Cabinet-level ranking. The Labour leader claimed that this figure had become a "substantial success" that would be a "valuable added weapon" were it copied in this country.

There are relatively few in Washington who would offer such a blanket endorsement. At best, their czar has enjoyed a mixed record and at worst, many would contend, has been a damaging distraction. The number of Americans regularly using drugs, which had halved in the preceding decade, has risen since its introduction. Those undertaking government treatment programmes fell despite a more than 300 per cent increase in expenditure. That shift, especially among the young, became an electoral embarrassment to President Clinton. He felt obliged last year to select a four-star General as his latest supremo.

The reasons for this relative failure are more than relevant to Britain. In the United States successive Presidents thought that a new office, an impressive title, and some additional resources would in themselves constitute a strategy. The existence of a czar became a delegation of responsibility. For Labour ministers, already burdened with an ambitious agenda, there would evolve, almost inevitably, a similar temptation.

In Washington, like Whitehall, the administration of drugs policy has long been split between several departments. In theory, the czar, as chief co-ordinator, was created specifically to rectify this division. In bureaucratic practice, it has become one more agency and without the institutional power of its competitors. That danger would be even more acute here as Mr Blair would like an appointed expert, not in the Cabinet but of similar status, to take charge over elected politicians.

Labour would be well advised to note that a czar is not a strategy. Mr Blair is certainly right to argue that the fragmentation of control between the Home Office and the Departments of Health and Education does not advance the overall operation. That fracture reflects a political reluctance to decide conclusively whether drug abuse is mostly a law and order question with a public health source or mainly a public health matter with a law and order outcome. A choice between the two approaches would eliminate much of the superficial need for a commander.

It would also help to acknowledge the limits of central action. This problem endures because of the demand for drugs — which ensures supply — not because of the detailed organisation of departments. The causes of this craving are best addressed through a diverse range of well-financed specific initiatives. It is extremely improbable that there exists a single State-directed solution. Mr Blair's best hope may well rest not on a national czar but an extensive network of local commissioners.

THEY THE JURY

Conscientious objection should not be an excuse

There are few duties that accompany British citizenhood. We all have to pay tax, of course, and attend school until we are 16, but other than that, little is required of us by law. Even voting, though seen by many as a civic duty that has to be exercised, is not compulsory. With the passing of conscription and National Service, jury service remains one of the few acts of citizenship that society calls upon individuals to undertake.

It is a serious business. To pass judgment on their peers may be, for many jurors, the most power that they ever exercise over another person's life. For that reason, the decision of Judge Anura Cooray to send two women jurors to prison on Monday for refusing even to consider a verdict was at first sight draconian. But for the same reason, it was entirely understandable.

Bonnie Schot and Carol Barclay, who were released yesterday on appeal, were genuinely shocked by the judge's treatment. So will be many who have read about their plight. But their "crime" was more than expressing confusion about the case. Having sat through 17 days of evidence and four hours of summing up in a case with five defendants, they announced in a note to the judge that they would not even take part in discussions with other jurors about the verdict. Miss Barclay said that she could not return a verdict on anyone at any time. Miss Schot, the jury foreman, said that she could not make up her mind.

The solution for Miss Schot is clear: if she could not decide, then she should have returned a "not guilty" verdict on the ground that the case had not been proved beyond reasonable doubt. It is not open to Miss Barclay, however, to object on principle to passing judgment on defendants. When jurors are sworn in, they promise to reach a verdict on the evidence. The result of her refusal to do so is that the trial had to be adjourned and a new one ordered at an estimated additional cost to the taxpayer of £150,000.

Jury service should not be treated lightly. These women's actions suggest a cavalier approach to the administration of justice. They could have asked for clarification if they were confused, or they could have opted for a "not guilty" verdict if they were not persuaded. But to refuse to reach any verdict is to cock a snook at the very essence of the criminal justice system. Their appeal judges may rightly decide that one night in prison is enough to apprise them, and others, of the seriousness of their actions. But, however harsh the sentence may have seemed, it had to be passed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN · Telephone 0171-782 5000

Sleaze allegations and moral aspects of electioneering

From the Chairman of the Virgin Group of Companies

Sir, Two weeks ago I returned from Greece. In a question and answer session there I was asked to cite the main differences I found in doing business in England compared to Greece. I argued that you could trust British politicians, the judiciary, the police, the customs, planning officers, etc, never to accept cash for services whereas in some European countries this seemed not to be the case. I pointed out the obvious — if those at the top play this game why shouldn't the rest of society join in?

When I returned home — to my embarrassment — it seemed that some British politicians may have behaved not a lot better.

Even at this late stage surely the constituencies in question should change their candidates for the next election — there are many young, keen and forthright people who would like to go into politics and serve their country.

Kind regards,
RICHARD BRANSON,
Chairman,
Virgin Group of Companies,
11 Holland Park, W11.
March 24.

From Mr Andrew Chadwick

Sir, We would seem to be about to get a new definition of Buggins's turn: "When a political party is so long in the wilderness that the electorate, having forgotten all their comparative qualities, votes them into power in defiance of both common sense and any certainty that they will do any better than the incumbents."

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW CHADWICK,
Principal,
Chadwick International,
1a Birkenhead Street, WC1.
March 20.

From the Reverend Edward Thompson

Sir, Parents are sometimes aware that their offspring are their true riches. Likewise, "the true riches of a nation are vigorous and happy men and women, willingly and intelligently co-operating for the good of the community".

One could wish that as politicians approach the forthcoming election they would take note of the economic, social and educational implications of this helpful statement, which comes from a report presented to the Houses of Convocation of Canterbury in April 1907.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD THOMPSON,
3 Woodsyre, Sydenham Hill, SE26.
March 22.

From Mr Dennis Barnard

Sir, It would seem likely that we shall see a change of government after May 1. May we ask, or expect, that the incoming administration will, quite soon after taking office, announce the date from which it will be prepared to accept responsibility, as the government in office, for any failure of its policies. May we also ask, or expect, that the outgoing administration will concede a future date from which any success of the incoming administration, will cease to be the result of their policies while in government.

Should these dates coincide?

Yours faithfully,
D. F. BARNARD,
Del Rivo, Burtons Lane,
Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire.
March 20.

From Mr David Watt

Sir, In opposition the new Labour Party has clearly demonstrated the skill with which it has refined its techniques of procuring and purveying leaked information (report, March 20). It has raised the practice — or lowered it, depending on one's point of view — to an art form.

If Labour should form the next administration I doubt whether the Tories in opposition will have either the aptitude or appetite to match this performance.

In the interests of open government, to which Labour so evidently attaches importance, and the free flow of information to both the media and the public, I hope that Mr Blair puts the person responsible into the Cabinet, where he can continue his distinguished work and be answerable to the Commons, and take questions in the usual way.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WATT,
40 Brookfield,
5 Highgate West Hill, N6.

From Mr Steven Reszetniak

Sir, Floating voters are spoilt for choice in north London. A few streets away from my home, a revolving billboard carries election posters placed by both the Labour Party and the Conservatives, together with a car advertisement. The message changes every ten seconds or so.

Yours faithfully,
STEVEN RESZETNIAK,
12 Shropshire Road, N22.
March 24.

From Mr R. J. Abbott

Sir, If the outcome of the election depends on 80 marginal seats (report and map, March 18), why not have election broadcasts solely in those areas and leave the rest of us in peace?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ABBOTT,
20 Oak Road,
Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire.
March 20.

Gays in the Army

From the Minister of State for the Armed Forces

Sir, Your headline today, "Army rule change to end ban on gays", gives a wholly incorrect impression. The Army has been reviewing its guidelines on conduct and discipline, but the review has not included any further consideration of the Government's policy on homosexuality.

In common with the other Services, the Army believes that homosexuality, whether male or female, is not compatible with the needs of military life because of the close physical conditions in which soldiers have to live and work.

Service personnel can be required to live and work in close proximity with each other, often under great stress and for long periods. We believe that these conditions, together with the need for absolute trust and confidence between all ranks, necessitate the exclusion of those of homosexual orientation or behaviour.

This is not a moral judgment — it is because we cannot risk undermining the combat effectiveness of our troops and their ability to meet the defence needs of the country.

This policy has been reviewed and supported by Parliament, most recently when considering the Armed Forces Bill last year. The Armed Forces Bill select committee looked at this subject in detail, took evidence from a large number of witnesses reflecting a wide range of opinion, and concluded that there should be no change to the current policy. We have no plans to change it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
NICHOLAS SOAMES,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, Whitehall, SW1.
March 24.

Gorbachev's legacy

From Professor Archie Brown, FBA

Sir, The cliché "Gorbymania" often becomes a substitute for reasoned argument. Brian Crozier (letter, March 22) fails to acknowledge that while Gorbachev retained a misplaced esteem for Lenin, he gradually came to reject the fundamental tenets of Leninism. Gorbachev's 1987 book, *Perestroika*, which Crozier cites, broke some new ground, but it was from 1988 that Gorbachev realised that the Soviet system needed to be fundamentally transformed, rather than merely reformed.

Oleg Gordievsky (letters, March 12, 22) apparently fails to realise that the Soviet Union had ceased to be a communist system in any meaningful sense by the end of the 1980s. It is not because Gorbachev was a "communist autocrat" that he is greatly respected by many people in the West — including the leading politicians who had dealings with him — but because he dismantled the communist system.

Gordievsky carries his vendetta against Gorbachev to absurd lengths when he suggests he "forged the mind-set" which produced in post-Soviet Russia "the infamous bloodbath in Chechnia". The war in Afghanistan began under Brezhnev and was ended by Gorbachev. The war in Chechnia began under Yeltsin and was ended by Alexander Lebed.

Yours faithfully,
ARCHIE BROWN
(Sub-Warden),
St Antony's College, Oxford.
March 23.

Retirement of Baroness Chalker

From Mr M. J. C. Tweedie

Sir, Your report (March 21) that Baroness Chalker has decided to retire as Minister for Overseas Development after the election includes compliments of the highest order by the Prime Minister.

In these times when political sleaze attracts so much media attention, here is a politician of undoubted integrity whom we all can admire. I hope there will be more like her amongst the new intake of Members of Parliament after the election.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES TWEEDIE,
Lower Upton, Little Hereford,
Ludlow, Shropshire.
March 21.

From Mr David Adair

Sir, When Linda Chalker was rejected by her electorate in 1992, the Prime Minister responded by arranging her elevation to the peerage so that she could return to her previous ministerial post.

Evidently, it has been a very satisfactory arrangement; how many other middle-echelon ministers have remained in the same office for the full five years of this Parliament? For Lady Chalker it has provided a well-remunerated ante-chamber to full retirement from political life; for the Prime Minister it has guaranteed good behaviour in a potentially troublesome backwater of his administration.

This is a fine example of the proper working of prime-ministerial patronage, part of the code of parliamentary behaviour on which we pride our country and which is now said to have been violated so shockingly by some errant Tory backbenchers.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID ADAIR,
19 Swanston Field,
Whitchurch on Thames,
Reading, Berkshire.
March 21.

From Mr Barry Lennox

Sir, Zimbabwe public service pensioners in this country will not be sorry to see the departure of Baroness Chalker as Minister for Overseas Development. She has constantly opposed any efforts to help them following the virtual disappearance of their pensions as a result of the plummeting Zimbabwe dollar, now worth less than a tenth of its value at independence.

This is in spite of an assurance given in 1979 by an earlier Minister of State at the Foreign Office that the Zimbabwe Independence Constitution contained "full safeguards" for public service pensions.

Her attitude is in stark contrast to the help her Government has given Maxwell pensioners and those allegedly mis-sold personal pensions, especially as in neither of those cases was it directly involved in arrangements. Her Majesty's Government was a signatory to the Zimbabwe Constitution.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. LENNOX
(President, Rhodesia Public Services Association, 1977-80),
11 Boyne Rise,
King's Worthy, Winchester.
March 21.

Tunes sinister

From Dr Andrew Cockburn

Sir, Your leading article, "Putting left to rights", and report about a piano for the left-handed (March 10) has prompted Mr Gareth Glyn's suggestion (letter, March 14) that a violin for the right-handed should be a greater priority.

In fact, left-handed pianists are quite well catered for: the repertoire of left-hand works may be small but it is distinctive. Ravel's concerto for left hand is well known, while Fauré's ambidexterity is amply demonstrated in his compositions.

The virtuoso pianist, Leopold Godowsky, held that the left hand, far from being relegated to "dull, repetitive work", is in many ways superior to the right. Freer of tension, it is more supple and relaxed. Commanding the middle and lower registers, it can produce a more sonorous and less percussive tone — with the damper pedal freeing it to play in the upper registers.

Godowsky greatly increased the range of the left-hand repertoire with, for example, a paraphrase of Strauss's *Gypsy Baron* waltz, and 22 studies based on Chopin's *Etudes*. Those interested in a "Chopin revolution", as your leader put it, might care to try his study based on Chopin's Op 10, No 12 — the *Revolutionary Study* — for the left hand alone.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW COCKBURN
(Co-founder, London Piano Circle),
30 Southway,
Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11.
March 14.

Trouble in Oporto

From Mr Richard Kurt

Sir, Rob Hughes's report (March 21; see also report, March 20, later editions) on Manchester United fans' trouble in Oporto quotes a member of the British Embassy staff in Lisbon as saying there would be 10,000 visiting fans, of whom only 6,400 had tickets, thus in my view providing support to the Portuguese police's contention that ticketless fans and forgeries were at the root of the violence.

The embassy official quoted was mistaken, as the figures only relate to tickets supplied via Manchester United's box office. Independent travel firms also supplied ticket/travel packages, with bona fide tickets provided by FC Porto. I was in Portugal for four days and only met one person who did not have such a ticket in his possession. This mistake was compounded by what I regard as unjust criticism of "so-called supporters ... without legitimate tickets" later in the report.

The pre-match crush, which your reporter admits he did not see, had nothing to do with ticketless fans or forgeries. I should know, for I was in the midst of it. The only issues there were crowd "control" and police brutality. I hope the report promised by Oporto's police chief next week will be rigorously analysed.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD KURT,
c/o Macmillan Publishing,
7 Albany Street, Edinburgh.
March 21.

Museum policy on 'looted' treasures

From Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, FBA, Master of Jesus College, Cambridge

Sir, Mr Christopher Cavey (letter, March 19) is astounded that I, as a trustee of the British Museum, should be critical of those collectors who, by their unquestioning purchase of unprovenanced antiquities, effectively finance "the cycle of destruction of archaeological sites" (report, March 13).

The terrible looting which continues in Cambodia, Afghanistan and Mali as well as in such traditional fields for illicit excavation as Greece and Cyprus, Italy, Turkey and Mexico, persuaded many of the great museums of the world several years ago that more stringent acquisition policies were appropriate and that they should seek to follow the Unesco Convention of 1970.

Innocent collectors should know that the British Museum, in common with a growing number of museums nationally or internationally, will no longer purchase unprovenanced antiquities (unless accompanied by secure documentation of ownership prior to 1970). Unprovenanced antiquities are no longer acceptable even as gifts or bequests.

The priority today is to end the continuing destruction of the world's historic heritage, and responsible collectors as well as the world's great museums have a responsibility which they should recognise.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN RENFREW,
The Master's Lodge,
Jesus College, Cambridge.
March 21.

Church advertising

From the Chairman of the Church of England Communications Committee

Sir, The Church of England is often at its most imaginative and effective when it operates on a local level. That is what the Birmingham and Lichfield dioceses will be doing through their Christian commercial on Central Television in the run-up to Easter (report, March 21).

The problem arises when, mistakenly or wilfully, such initiatives are perceived by others to have the full backing of the Church of England and to be part of a presumed overarching policy.

No such policy exists: nor should it. Each diocesan bishop is responsible under God, and within the minimal constraints of the unique Anglican framework, for what happens in his diocese.

However, it would clearly benefit the Church if the people involved in this important and creative field of Christian advertising were to have even closer links with each other; and with those who, sometimes unexpectedly, have to comment on what they have produced.

This might have the further benefit of providing a forum for deeper examination of the content and purpose of such advertising.

The Birmingham and Lichfield offering comes across as prayerful and thoughtful. By contrast, attempts from other stables have sometimes seemed to reduce the great mystery of the incarnate God to utter banality.

Yours sincerely,
†NIGEL WAKEFIELD,
Bishop's Lodge,
Woodthorpe Lane,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire.
March 22.

Egg on face

From the Archdeacon of Swindon

Sir, On this Palm Sunday the children in Junior Church were asked why next Sunday was the most important in the Church's year. Without hesitation came the answer: "Channel 5 starts." Good news perhaps for some but sadly we still await conversion.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. MIDDLETON,
2 Louviers Way,
Swindon, Wiltshire.
March 24.

More egg on face

From the Registrar of Culford School

Sir, Richard Lloyd writes (letter, March 24) of his concern about the transport of players from Suffolk to Rosslyn Park as we, at Culford, have cause for concern about the transmission of information from the schools' seven-a-side tournament. Your correspondent was told that some members of the Culford team were lost in "Hampstead". Alas, this appeared in his report as Hampshire.

However, confusion about London landmarks is not uncommon among school pupils. This was certainly evident in the observation of the girl, far from here, who maintained that Salome was a wicked woman who took off all her clothes in front of Harrods.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUMPHRIES,
Registrar,
Culford School,
Culford, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
March 24.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 25: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Lady Abel Smith has succeeded the Lady Elton as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 25: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, and Chairman, International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning left Bombay on the conclusion of the visit to India.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 25: The Prince of Wales today visited Barry and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards, RNR).

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, this morning visited Holm View Leisure Centre, Skomer Road, Gibbonsdown, attended a meeting with those connected with businesses involved in study support initiatives in Wales and met young people.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, the Abbeyfield Society, later visited the Abbeyfield Residential Home and met residents and staff.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust and Business in the Community, this afternoon attended a seminar on opportunities for young people in Barry at the Docks Office and met local supporters of both organisations.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, afterwards visited the Amelia Trust, Five Mile Road, Walterston, Llancarfan, and met staff and local young people.

YORK HOUSE
March 25: The Duchess of Kent, President, this morning opened the NCH Action for Children's Warren Park Project, Kingston Hill, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the replica of *HM Bark Endeavour* (the ship in which Captain Cook sailed to Australia and New Zealand 1768-1771) in the Pool of London at 3.00.

The Duke of York, as patron, will visit the exhibition of projects for the Young Electronic Designer awards at the Science Museum at 9.00am and present the annual awards at 7.45.

The Duke of Kent, Patron, will attend a lecture at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, Whitehall, SW1, at 12.15; and as Vice-Chairman, British Overseas Trade Board will attend a Britain Means Business in Cape Town briefing at the Department of Trade and Industry, at 4.30.

State Opening of Parliament

Parliament will be opened by The Queen at 11.30 am on Wednesday, May 14, 1997.

Peers who will be present at the ceremony may apply for a place in the Chamber for their peeress or husband, and for their eldest son or daughter above 14 years of age.

A limited number of seats in the Royal Gallery will be available for guests of Members of both Houses of Parliament. Members of the House of Commons should apply for these seats to the Speaker's Secretary, House of Commons, London SW1A OAA.

Applications from peers using the forms issued to those eligible should be sent to the Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain, House of Lords, London SW1A OPW, by Friday, April 11, 1997.

Dinners

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. The Earl of Selborne, Sir Robin Nicholson, FRS, and Mr Richard E Escritt were the speakers.

The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
Lord Mustill, President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and Mr Geoffrey Beresford Hartwell, Chairman and Senior Vice President, were the hosts at the Annual Dinner of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators held at Drapers' Hall on Tuesday, March 25. The guests included:
Lord Justice Saville, Judge Esyr Lewis, Presidents and Chief Executives of Professional Bodies and Trade Associations and Mr John S. Bridgeman, Director General of Fair Trading.

Lecture

Wellington Society
Dr Michael Baxendine delivered a lecture to the Wellington Society yesterday at the Wellington Hospital. Dr Arthur Levin, chairman of the society, presided.

Appointment

Mr Rodney Hunter Gordon Corner has been appointed HM Coroner for Milton Keynes with effect from April 1, 1997.

Church bombed by IRA to become centre for peace

Bishop's £3m plan for ruined building

By Daniel McGrory

STANDING amid the ruins of St Ethelburga's church yesterday the Bishop of London unveiled plans to end a four-year wrangle in the City over what to do with the medieval church destroyed by the IRA.

The Right Rev Richard Chartres says that he has ecumenical support and substantial offers of money to restore the distinctive façade of the church in Bishopsgate and to convert the site into a centre for reconciliation and peace.

"This place has been the subject of controversy and was itself a victim of violence and so I hope that everybody can agree this would be a fitting and proper use for a church with such historic value."

The bishop envisages the centre comprising a small church, a memorial garden to those killed in the two City bombs, and offices which will be used by staff offering practical support and counselling to the victims of terrorism and conflict.

Former hostages Terry Waite and John McCarthy joined church leaders in the rubble of St Ethelburga's yesterday to publicise the plan which they hope will receive planning consent and the necessary financial backing to begin the reconstruction work.

The bishop said: "I am heartened by the early support and the offers of cash which may mean we do not even have to launch a public appeal to raise the £3 million I think will be needed. I will be very disappointed indeed if we do not have St Ethelburga's resurrected well before the millennium."

The Corporation of London has already told the bishop that it approves the plan which also has the active support of English Heritage and other interested groups.

ANTHONY UPTON

John McCarthy and Terry Waite, the former hostages, at St Ethelburga's yesterday when plans for the future of the wrecked church were announced

The idea of a glass-fronted design that left exposed parts of the church damaged by the IRA bomb in April 1993 was rejected by City planners last year as "inappropriate".

Traditionalists have won the argument for the Grade I listed building to be restored with its medieval street frontage, roof and 18th-century bell turret.

Cardinal Basil Hume joined yesterday's visit to the church saying: "This plan is a marvellously appropriate and imaginative idea and it has my wholehearted support."

Nothing has been done to the site since the IRA blast except to salvage a few architectural treasures and cover the shell with corrugated roofing, plastic sheeting and scaffolding.

As he picked his way through the rubble John McCarthy said: "I was delighted to be asked to suggest ways in which this centre could work. I was fortunate to receive very good care when I returned from Beirut and I hope St Ethelburga's may help others."

Terry Waite said: "There is tremendous symbolism in this building, that from the destruction and out of suffering comes new hope."

The bishop writes, page 18

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr R.A. Collins
and Miss F.A. Benton Jones**
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Sir John and Lady Collins, of Beaulieu, Hampshire, and Fleur, younger daughter of Sir Simon Benton Jones, Bt, and Lady Benton Jones, of Irnham, Lincolnshire.

**Mr S.I. McIntyre
and Miss J.A.C. Salter**
The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Mr James McIntyre, of Mudgee, Australia, and of Mrs Fiona McBryde, of Yair Bridge, Scotland, and Joanna, younger daughter of the late Dr Adrian Salter and of Lady Berriman, of Wateringbury, Kent.

**Mr N.P. Fenner
and Dr S.E.R. Halford**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Fenner, of Houghton, West Sussex, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Miles Halford, of Hampstead, London.

**Mr R.W. McNair Scott
and Miss M.R. Norris**
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Nigel McNair Scott, and Maurette, only daughter of the late Mr John Norris and of Mrs Walter Berryman.

**Mr R.A.J. Marsh
and Miss A.S.A. Barrett**
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs David Marsh, of Winson, Gloucestershire, and Alexia, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Barrett, of Corston, Wiltshire.

**Mr M.J. Moran
and Miss J.A. Nix**
The engagement is announced between Matthew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ken Moran, of Bekesbourne, Kent, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Nix, of Sydney, Australia.

**Mr J. Parkinson
and Miss L.A. Skinner**
The engagement is announced between Jack, only son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Parkinson, of Tadlow, Cambridgeshire, and Laura, daughter of Commander and Mrs Brian Skinner, of Swallowfield, Berkshire.

**Mr C.A.J. Rothschild
and Mlle S.M. Peleener**
The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Gerald Rothschild, of Whiteleaf, Bledlow Ridge, Buckinghamshire, and Sarah, only daughter of M and Mme Gerard Peleener, of Antony, near Paris.

**Mr G. Scannell
and Miss L. Rowland-Jones**
The engagement is announced between Gareth, son of Mr and Mrs S. Scannell, of Caerphilly, Wales, and Lucy, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs E. Rowland-Jones, of Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

**Mr M.R. Williams-Ellis
and Miss I.B. Kvale**
The engagement is announced between Mark, youngest son of Mr Roger Williams-Ellis, of North Wales, and Mrs John Horne, of Jersey, and Ingrid, youngest daughter of Reverend and Mrs Dagfinn Kvale, of Norway and California.

Marriages

**Mr J.S.M. Beckwith-Smith
and Miss C.A. Alers-Hankey**
The marriage took place on Saturday, March 22, at St Luke's Church, Chelsea, of Mr John Sydney Merton Beckwith-Smith and Miss Catherine Alice Alers-Hankey. The Rev Christopher Kevill-Davies officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, Mr Andrew Alers-Hankey, was attended by Poppy, Richard and George Cotterell, Georgina Allen-Stevens, Bethany Arnold and Joseph Agnew. Mr Magnus Arnander was best man.

A reception was held at The Reform Club and the honeymoon is being spent in Bognor.

**Mr D.C.F. Hoysted
and Mrs C.J. Hoare**
The marriage took place in London on Tuesday, March 25, between Christopher Hoysted and Caroline Hoare, of Warwick Square, London, SW1.

School news

Queen Margaret's School, York
Queen Margaret's School, York announces the award of the following Scholarships for September 1997:

Academic
11+ Entrance: Annabel Bowring (James Allen's Prep School, Dulwich), Penelope East (The Abbey School, Reading).
13+: Polly Lees (The Minster School, York) major award: Amanda Campbell (Barnard Castle School), Amanda Watkins (Repton Prep).
Sixth Form: Lisa McKiddie (QMS), Nicola Lau (QMS).

Music
Annabel Forsythe (Ripon Choir School); Polly Lees (The Minster School, York).

Art
Lucy Nicol (Butterstone School, Perth); Sixth Form Art Award: Joanna Thyne (QMS).

Royal Grammar School, Guildford
The following awards are announced:

Academic Scholarships
King's Scholarships: John A.C. Keeping (Lanesborough), Michael D.R. Norton (Lanesborough), Peter M. Tilman (Cranmore); Scholarships: Alec D. Bird (St Peter's), Simon A. Bird (Cranmore), Jonathan P.R. de Quidt (Lanesborough), Thomas L. Gadd (Lyndhurst), Nima J. Ghadiri (Cranmore), Rupert A. Harris (Ravenscote), John W.V. Holmes (Ripley Court), James D. Lawrence (Lyndhurst), Philip N. Pile (Aldro), Alexander P. Reddihough (Ripley Court), Richard D. Smith (Clewborough House), Jonathan P. Sturgeon (Haslemere Prep), Ahran A. Symonds-Baig (Scotforth St Paul), Jeremy R. Wilkinson (Hoe Bridge); Honorary Scholarships: Calum M.M. Daniel (Danes Hill), Craig P. Haffey (St Neot's), William J. Hollowell (Cranleigh Prep), Nicholas A. Osman (Cranmore), Charles McC. Roome (Ripley Court).

Music Scholarships
Simon A. Bird (Cranmore), Jonathan G.R.C. Jowett (Aldro), Matthew R.A. McDevitt (Downsend), Michael D.R. Norton (Lanesborough), Gregory M. Sebepos-Rogers (RGS), Henry R.K. Skeoch (Newland House), Michael W. Story (Yateley Manor), John C Wright (Queen Eleanor's).

Art Scholarship
Matthew A. Welsh (Downsend).

The Birmingham Society

The following have been elected to the Faculty of Fellows:

Mrs Annette Chub; Mr Fred Dalby; Colonel Geoffrey Jones; Mr Joseph Jordan; Lady Knowles; Mr Colin Lucas; the Rev Les Milner; Mr John Parsons; Mrs Violet Stanier; Mrs Theresa Thomas; Mr Harold Thompson; Dr Chris Upton; Mr William Worship.

Mr Terence Westwood has succeeded Mr George May as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the society.

Elections

Royal College of Anaesthetists
Professor L. Strunin has been elected President and Dr S.M. Willatts and Dr W.R. MacRae Vice-Presidents of the Royal College of Anaesthetists from June 18, 1997.

Birthdays today

Mr David Amess, MP, 45; Mr Graham Barlow, cricketer, 47; Mr Pierre Boulez, composer and conductor, 72; Lord Chetwode, 60; Miss Kyung-Wha Chung, violinist, 49; Mr Piers Gardner, director, British Institute of International and Comparative Law, 43; Lord Graham of Edmonton, 72; Mr William Hague, Secretary of State for Wales, 36; Her Honour Jean Graham Hall, 80; Baroness Hayman, 48; Lord Hooson, QC, 72; Sir Peter Horsley, chairman, Osprey Aviation, 76; Miss Elizabeth Jane Howard, novelist, 74; the Right Rev Bill Ind, Bishop-designate of Truro, 57; Sir George Jefferson, former chairman, British Telecom, 76; Sir Bernard Katz, biophysicist, 86; the Earl of Kinnoull, 62; Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch, 83; Sir Leslie Melville, economist, 95; Mr Leonard Nimoy, actor and producer, 66; Mr G.T. Pryce, former chief executive, Dalgety, 63.

Mr Harry Rabinowitz, conductor and composer, 81; Miss Diana Ross, singer, 53; Professor Stuart Sutherland, Professor Emeritus, Experimental Psychology, Sussex University, 70, Vice-Admiral Sir Jonathan Tod, 58; Mr Amédée Turner, QC, and former MEP, 68; Mr Colin Webb, former general manager, Press Association, 58.

Memorial service

Major-General E. F. Foxton
A service of thanksgiving to celebrate the life of Major-General Edwin Frederick (Ned) Foxton, Director of Army Education, 1965-1969, was held yesterday at the Church of St Mary and All Saints, Beaconsfield. The Rev Alison Caw officiated, assisted by the Rev Alan Stockbridge, who gave an address.

Brigadier A.D. Thompson, Director Educational and Training Services (Army), read from *Memoirs of Childhood and Youth* by Albert Schweitzer. Major-General J.S. Lee, President of the RAEC Association, paid tribute. Members of the family, the Vice-Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and many other former colleagues and friends were among those present.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Konrad von Gesner, physician, Zurich, 1516; William Wollaston, philosopher, Coton, near Stafford, 1659; Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count von Rumford, physicist and co-founder of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, Woburn, Massachusetts, 1753; George Smith, assyriologist, London, 1840; David Alfred Thomas, 1st Viscount Rhondda, statesman and financier, Ysgyborwen, Glamorganshire, 1856; A.E. Housman, poet and scholar, Fockbury, Worcestershire, 1859; Robert Frost, poet, San Francisco, 1874; Sir Gerald du Maurier, actor-manager, London, 1874; Wilhelm Backhaus, pianist, Leipzig, 1884; Tennessee Williams, dramatist, Columbus, Mississippi, 1911.

DEATHS: Sir Thomas Elyot, diplomat, Carleton, Cambridgeshire, 1546; John Winthrop, Puritan and 1st Governor of Massachusetts, Boston, 1649; Sir John Vanbrugh, dramatist and architect, London, 1726; James Hutton, geologist, Edinburgh, 1797; Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, Vienna, 1827; Thomas Hancock, pioneer of the rubber industry, Stoke Newington, 1865; Walt Whitman, poet, Camden, New Jersey, 1892; Cecil Rhodes, Prime Minister of Cape Colony 1890-96, Muizenberg, South Africa, 1902; Sarah Bernhardt, actress, Paris, 1923; David Lloyd George, 1st Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, Prime Minister 1916-22, Ty Newydd, 1945; Raymond Chandler, novelist, La Jolla, California, 1959; Sir Noel Coward, playwright and composer, St Mary, Jamaica, 1973.

The Sabi Game Reserve, the world's first officially designated game reserve, opened in South Africa, 1898.

The first cremation in England took place, Woking, 1886.

Driving tests were introduced, 1934.

President Jimmy Carter of the United States witnessed the signing of a peace treaty by Israeli Prime Minister Menachim Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, 1979.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

But as for me, Lord, I cry to you, my prayer comes before you in the morning. Psalm 88 : 13

BIRTHS

ALLCOTT - Beautiful baby James, born Saturday 22nd March 1997 at 12.28 pm, weighing 8lbs 4.5oz.

BAKER - Meghan Holly 7lbs 4oz on 21st March. A beautiful baby daughter for my beautiful wife Tracey. Always yours, your proud and loving Daddy Chris.

BOISSET - See Carter.

CARTER - On 26th February 1997 at QMC, Nottingham, to Caroline Boisset and John Carter, two sons, Robert Ralph Astier and John James Murray.

CATTERMULL - On March 17th, to Jane (née Bredin) and Stuart, a son, Rory William.

COLEMAN - On 22nd March, to Hiromi (née Hamada, of Osaka, Japan) and Alan, a daughter, Antonia Seline Ayaka.

CURTIS - On March 19th, to Sarah (née Gibbon) and William, a daughter.

DAVIES - On 23rd March 1997 at Queen Charlotte's, to Angela and Lloyd, a daughter, Ruby Florence, a sister for Harvey.

HARLEY - On March 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Victoria and Edward, a daughter, Alice Ianthe, a sister for Brilliana and Imogen.

HEALY - On March 19th, to Emma and Tim, a gorgeous gurgling girl, Molly Alice Tabitha. A first grandchild for John and Jennifer.

KAFANTARIS - On March 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Sophia and Paris, a son, Stavros.

KONDRATIUK - On March 20th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Tracy (née Mitchell) and Hugo, a daughter, Eliza Lily, a sister for Alexandra.

LUSSIER - On March 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Sophie (née Oppenheimer) and Stephen, a son.

McNALLY - On March 15th, in Brighton, to Scarlett (née Hutchinson) and J.C., a daughter, Lucinda Scarlett.

NEVE - On March 18th, at The New York Hospital, to Emma (née Fricker) and Christopher, a daughter, Victoire Constance, a sister for Charlotte.

STILTON - Ruth (née Gilvear) and Andrew are delighted to announce the arrival of Anna Katherine on 22nd March 1997. A sister for Lucy.

BIRTHS

STOCKER - On March 10th, to Helen and John, a son, Ludovic John, bravely born and rather handsome.

DEATHS

ATWOOD - Judith Mary aged 57, died peacefully in her sleep on 23rd March 1997. Beloved mother of Rebecca, Jessica and Ryland. May time lessen the pain. Funeral to be held at St Paul's Church, Rusthall, on 4th April 1997 at 3 pm. Arrangements by Hickmott, Tunbridge Wells.

BEER - Elsie Margaret Emily, aged 93; much loved wife of Sharman and mother of Mary, Andrew and Nicholas. Died on 22nd March 1997, peacefully in her sleep at Hempton Field Nursing Home, Chinnor. Funeral at St Helen's Albury, near Tiddington, Oxon at 3 pm on Wednesday, 2nd April. Family flowers only. Any donations please to Lloyds Bank, Thame, Oxon OX9 2BN attn. Peter Balling, payable to Lloyds Bank, to be shared between St Helen's Church Albury, St Mary's Church Thame, and Thame Community Hospital.

BERRIDGE - Ada Louisa aged 88 passed away peacefully on 22nd March, beloved wife of Alfred James (Jim ex professional golfer - Gerrards Cross Golf Club). Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday 1st April at 2 pm at Spratton Church, Northamptonshire, followed by burial.

BEWSHER - Peacefully in her home at Sevenoaks on March 24th in her 99th year, Uarda Mary (née Gray Donald). The widow of Brigadier Frederick Bewsher and devoted mother of Eve. Much loved Gran of all the Rogers. Cremation private. There will be a small Memorial Service later on.

BOLGER - Judith Beatrice (née Hansard) peacefully at home on March 23rd 1997. Deeply loved wife of Philip Brendan, devoted sister of Elizabeth and brother-in-law Michael, loving aunt of Susan, James, Sarah, John, Gregory and Lauren. Cremation service Thursday 3rd April 3 pm Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Sam Beare Unit c/o F.W. Chitty & Co., 24 New Zealand Avenue, Walton-on-Thames.

DEATHS

BRADDOCK - John Cyril, formerly of Navy Works M.P.B.W. and D of E, died peacefully on Sunday 23rd March aged 81. Beloved husband of Elizabeth, much loved father of Nick, daughter-in-law Margaret and grandson James. Cremation Friday 4th April in the North Chapel, Portchester Crematorium at 2.15 pm. Family flowers only, donations to the Leukaemia Research Fund c/o Barrells Funeral Directors, Lawnswood, 245 Fratton Road, Portsmouth.

CARFRAE - Michael James Fergus, late Royal Artillery, on March 22nd, suddenly whilst gardening. Dearly loved husband of Maureen, father of Bryony, Caroline and Martin and grandfather of eight. He will be sadly missed. Private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Andrew's Parish Church, Farnham, 2.30 pm Wednesday 2nd April. Donations if wished to The British Red Cross direct.

CASTELL - On Sunday March 23rd, very peacefully at Heathmount Liss, her home for the last ten years, Muriel Castell, aged 88, formerly of Midhurst. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium, Tuesday April 1st at 11.30am. All enquiries to Petersfield Funeral Services, tel: (01730) 262711.

DE BASS - Mrs Mary, of St Johns Road, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, passed away at The Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted, on Monday 24th March aged 78 years. Funeral Service will take place at West Herts Crematorium, Garston on Friday 4th April, at 12.15pm. flowers or enquiries to J. Worley (Funeral Directors), 48 Lawn Lane, Hemel Hempstead, tel: (01442) 253465.

FASENFELD - On March 23rd 1997, (tragically) in Val-d'Isère, France, Franz beloved son of George and Eve and brother of Stephen and Andrea. May he rest in peace. Funeral tomorrow (Thursday) in Dublin. Enquiries to Patrick Massey Funeral Directors, Dublin Phone 353/1/453 3333.

GALE - Stephen Edwin, dearly beloved son of Claire and brother of Julian, unexpectedly in Oman. Funeral April 3rd at 12 noon in Christchurch, Hampstead. All friends very welcome. No flowers please.

HOPKINS - On March 23rd, tragically, Olivia Rosemary. So special to Susan, Peter, Isabel, John and Deborah. Enquiries to Peter Taylor Funeral Services, Holt, Norfolk, tel: (01263) 711992.

KEATLEY - On 21st March 1997, at the White House, Steeple Morden, Helen Rankin Thompson (Nancy), in her 96th year. Very dearly loved Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother. Private family funeral.

MATHER - Peacefully on 20th March in her 90th year at Remenham Place Nursing Home, May Alexandra (Biddy). Widow of Charles, dearly loved mother of Janet and Gill and grandmother of Anna, Sophie, Buffy, Emily and Charles. Funeral private. Service of Thanksgiving at St Edwards School Chapel on a date to be announced. Grateful thanks to all at Remenham for their devoted and professional care.

MIALL - Dr. Anne Miall (née Davies), wife of Roger Miall and only daughter of David and Mary Davies, died 24th March 1997 peacefully at her home in Hambledon, Hants. Consultant Anaesthetist with Portsmouth Hospital Trust. Funeral at Hambledon Parish Church 1st April 1997 at 1.45 pm. No flowers please but donations if desired to Wessex Cancer Trust c/o Mr M.G. Eames, J. Edwards & Son Funeral Directors, 13 Hambledon Road, Waterlooville, Hants.

MILLER - Rosemary (née Elphinstone) aged 83, contented, on 23rd March, after a short illness. Much loved mother of Wendy, Christine, Janet and Donald. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren too numerous to mention by name. "Politically incorrect and fun to the end!" Funeral 11am on 2nd April at St Andrew's, Cobham, Surrey. Flowers mandatory - c/o James & Thomas, Mill Street, Cobham, to arrive before 10am on 2nd April.

MOLINARI - Michel, photographer, on 21st March 1997, peacefully in a London hospital. Funeral on Thursday 27th March, 4.15pm at West London Crematorium. Flowers, or donations to "World Peace Fund" c/o J.H. Kenyon, 83 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 2BD.

NESBITT - Peacefully in hospital on 24th March 1997 in her 98th year, Agnes M. (née Duncan) MBE. Widow of Matthew, mother of Kathleen, loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Former Conductor of The Scottish Junior Singers. Committal at Linn Crematorium, Glasgow, on Friday 28th March at 2pm to which all friends are invited. Family flowers only. Donations to The Federation of Music Festivals and Musicians Benevolent Fund. No letters please.

SHEILS-REDDIN - Derek Thomas Sheils-Reddin 21st August 1930 - 24th March 1997. Beloved father, grandfather and stepson. Died peacefully at home in Spain. "We'll miss your music in our lives". Funeral has already taken place. Donations in Derek's name to: CUDECA (Spanish Cancer Charity), Edif Gavilan, Puebla Lucia, 29640 Fuengirola, Malaga, Spain.

SILVESTER - Dorothy on 22nd March aged 95, died at her home. Widow of Val, much loved aunt and great-aunt, she will be sadly missed by them and the Rees family. Private cremation. Service of Commemoration on Wednesday April 2nd at St Mary Magdalene, New Milton at 2.30. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Western Orchestral Society c/o Moodys Funeral Services, 59 Old Milton Road, New Milton, Hants. BH25 6DJ, tel: (01425) 612261.

TEMPLER - Peggie in Salisbury on 24th March, 1997. Much loved widow of Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer and mother of Jane and Miles. Funeral Service family only. Memorial Service later. No flowers. Donations if desired to Commonwealth Society for the Deaf or SSAFA.

WALKER - Lorna, widow of the late Commander Richard Walker RNR, formerly Havenmaster of Avonmouth, Bristol, died peacefully March 20th 1997. Funeral Service on Wednesday April 2nd at St Mary, Leigh Woods at 12.30 pm, followed by cremation at Canford at 1.30pm.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

SELBY - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Ralph Walford Selby Esq, CMG, will be held at The Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Thursday 24th April 1997 at 2 pm. Those wishing to attend should apply for tickets and a car pass if required to the Regimental Adjutant, Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ by 9th April 1997. Tickets will be issued after that date.

WEBSTER - John Dudley. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John Dudley Webster is to be held at the Church of St Mary-Le-Bow, Cheapside, London EC4, on Monday 21st April at 12.30pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

SMITH - Rosamund, remembered always, especially today. Also Betty, her mother. Ian and family.

MARRIAGES

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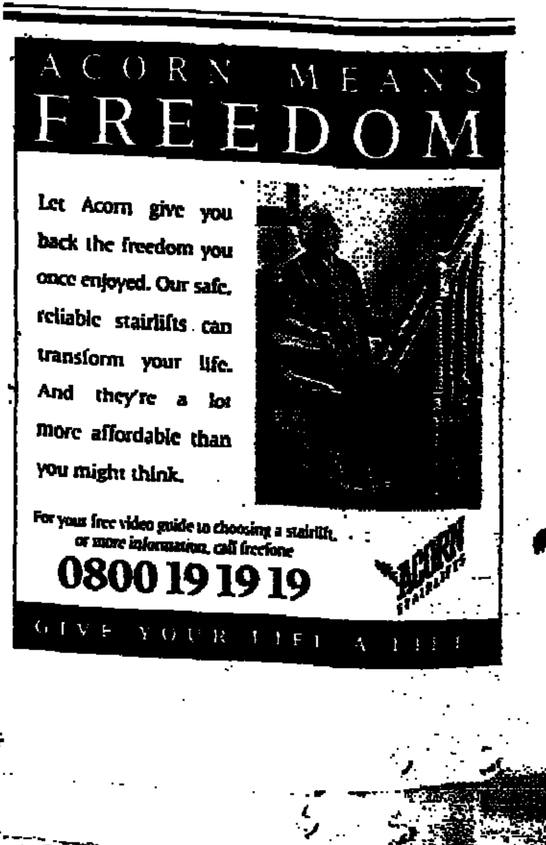
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OBITUARIES

SIR JAMES HIGHGATE

Sir James Highgate, lawyer, governor of the High School of Glasgow, 1981-90, president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, 1987-89, died on March 16 aged 76. He was born on June 18, 1920.

Jimmy Highgate was a Scottish Tory of the old-fashioned kind who served the party without thought of personal reward or advancement. War service apart, he lived in the same house all his days, worshipped in the same church and practised law in the same partnership in its various mutations. But, above all, he will be remembered for his passionate devotion to the High School of Glasgow, and the part he played in saving it from extinction.

James Brown Highgate was born into a Scotland where Unionism, rather than Conservatism, provided the banner under which the political Right rallied, and his life exemplified the close links between the party and the Church of Scotland. The decline of the first after 1955, when it achieved a majority of the popular vote, shows a remarkable correlation with the latter's loss of membership since that time, but Highgate gave both institutions outstanding service until his death.

Highgate attended the High School, descended from the medieval grammar school, from 1931 to 1938. He completed his MA at Glasgow University in 1940 but, without waiting to graduate, joined the Royal Artillery as a gunner. He was rapidly promoted to the rank of sergeant — for each extra stripe he would send his sister Elizabeth five shillings — and served in London and the South East.

The last 18 months of the war saw him with the Royal Indian 7th Rajput Regiment: he spent 18 months in India and attained the rank of major. Afterwards he returned to university to add an LLB to his MA, and entered the Glasgow legal firm of Brownlie, Watson and Beckett, becoming a partner in 1951 and senior partner in 1975. Ten years later, upon retirement, he became a consultant to the successor partnership of Miller, Beckett and Jackson, and continued to attend the office a couple of days a week until his death.

He suffered a heart attack while walking to the church to which he had devoted much of his life. He was an elder of Park Church, Uddingston, for 49 years and preses (chairman) of its board of management from 1960 until last year when, at a dinner in his honour, tribute was paid to a man who, for all his distinction, was universally known as "Oor Jimmie". The phrase celebrated his warmth, generosity, his lack of pomposity or side and his modesty.

Over the years he gave tens of thousands of pounds to the High School and other causes — he served on the regional board of the Salvation Army from 1970. His service to his old school, however, went far beyond financial support.

He was one of a group of former pupils, led by N. S. Thomson, A. L. Aitkenhead and Norman (now Lord) Macfarlane, which rallied to its cause when the Labour-controlled Glasgow Corporation threatened to sweep it away. The proposal was that the High School for Girls should become a comprehensive and that the boys' school should be closed altogether.

When legal and other routes failed, the former pupils resorted to direct action. They rapidly raised £600,000. They arranged a merger with a private junior school at Drewsteignton, Bearsden, and combined its assets with those of the High School former pupils' club. When the old school closed in 1976, its successor was born on the same day and its new senior-school building was opened on the club's playing fields at Anniesland, beyond the city boundaries, the following year. It now has a roll of more than 1,000.

Highgate had to retire as a governor, by rule, at the age of 70, but he continued to serve on the charitable trust administering the High School's bursaries and development funds. Out of its senior roll of 638, about 50 pupils benefit from these scholarships, with another 50 on the state assisted places scheme.

His political career was in the same mould of disinterested service. He contested the parliamentary seat of Bothwell at three general elections — 1964, 1966 and 1970 — and, although he was beaten each time, he had the satisfaction of holding the Labour majority steady at a time of general Tory decline in Scotland. He would probably have been horrified if victory had wrenched him away to Westminster.

Tory fortunes reached their nadir in the general election of 1987, when the party lost half its parliamentary representation north of the border. A thorough inquest ensued: the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party had truly arrived. Highgate, who had been joint honorary secretary of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association from 1973 to 1986, now became its president, serving for two years.

He was appointed CBE in 1981 and was knighted in 1994. His private passions were golf and travel.

He remained a bachelor and is survived by his sister Elizabeth.

ALEXANDER SALKIND

Alexander Salkind, film producer, died in Neuilly, France, on March 8 aged 75. He was born on June 2, 1921.

ALEXANDER SALKIND was probably the only independent film producer capable of financing a blockbuster on the scale of *Superman*. When the film was released in 1978 it had, by conservative estimates, cost £100 million to make, a sum that even the larger Hollywood studios could ill afford to invest. Salkind had raised the money on his own, by wheeler-dealing from hotel bedrooms and restaurant tables in the seductive atmosphere of Cannes.

Salkind was an anomaly in modern Hollywood. The producers he admired most were the flamboyant moguls of a prewar generation — Jack Warner, Samuel Goldwyn and Louis B. Mayer. Much about present-day Hollywood he despised, particularly the "suits" — studio lawyers and accountants.

Taking risks, making a deal and beating the studios at their own game were what he lived for and, for the rest, he had no desire to follow convention. A yacht in Cannes served as home and a suitcase as his office. He dressed, as in some 1930s movie, completely in white, from the tip of his Panama hat to his monogrammed shirt, white socks and shoes. He maintained a wife and mistress, quite openly, for years. And his business methods, which were variously described as sharp, devious and unscrupulous, might have been learnt from reading Raffles as boy.

Salkind's peripatetic childhood meant that as an adult he spoke six languages with varying degrees of accuracy. His parents, Russian Jews in retreat from the Bolsheviks, stopped in Danzig long enough for his birth, then travelled on to Berlin, where his father gave up legal practice for films. It was a booming time for the German film industry and Mikhail Salkind shot a number of films, including an early Greta Garbo silent, *Joyless Street* (1925). Fleeing from the Nazis, the family caught one of the last boats from Europe and escaped to Casablanca, Cuba and Mexico.

There Alexander learnt the family business, particularly the money-raising arm of it. His first coup, in 1945, was a comedy called *Rocket to the Moon*, for which he approached various Hollywood agents. It was clear that he could not afford a big star, so he was amazed when one agent suggested Buster Keaton. Keaton, it transpired, had been dropped by everyone because of his drinking, and was delighted to be given another chance for the modest fee of $5,000.

After the war father and son returned to Europe and began making worthy, intellectual and totally unprofitable films. *Austerlitz* (1959) was written and directed by Abel Gance; *The Trial* (1962) starred Orson Welles, who held up its release by taking a year to edit it.

Salkind had reached a low point in the 1960s. His son Ilya, who was to take over from Mikhail as Alexander's partner, provided a turning point. Picking up the script for *The Light at the Edge of the World* in an agent's office, he recognised a good Jules Verne yarn which an international audience might enjoy. Alexander Salkind hired Kirk Douglas, who was holidaying in France, as the star.

The money the Salkinds made from the film, released in 1971, put them back on track. Big slices of American life, not art-house movies, now became their speciality. They worked with Richard Burton and Raquel Welch in *Bluebeard* (1972) and found another vehicle for Welch in *The Three Musketeers* (1973).

The latter launched the concept of back-to-back production when, halfway through the filming, Salkind realised that the director Richard Lester had shot twice as much film as he needed. Without telling the actors, he asked the writer George MacDonald Fraser to string together the spare scenes, with a few new ones thrown in, and so make a sequel. The resulting *Four Musketeers* (1974) brought Salkind a host of laws suits from the actors. But Salkind could easily afford to settle with them out of the films' profits.

The next project was *Superman* (1978), introducing the then unknown Christopher Reeve. Again, the concept was Ilya's idea — Alexander had never heard of the caped law-enforcer. But, once persuaded, Salkind made his headquarters in Cannes and began touting distribution rights with wholehearted enthusiasm — this being the means by which he intended to fund the filming. An airborne advertising campaign, in which a swarm of planes trailed the Mediterranean sky with the slogan "You'll Believe a Man Can Fly", proved particularly seductive to distributors.

Costs, though, soon spiralled out of control. Several million dollars alone was paid to Marlon Brando for a few days' work on a cameo role. But Salkind kept his nerve and at the eleventh hour, when more money was needed for production to continue, forced the hand of the film's distributors, Warners. His faith in the project was proved right when it was released to vast queues outside cinemas.

Salkind was executive producer on *Superman II* and *III* (1980 and 1983) and *Supergirl* (1984). But he seemed to lose his commercial touch in the last decade of his career. *Santa Claus* (1985), starring Dudley Moore as an elf, was a flop and so, more expensively, was *Christopher Columbus* (1992), which unfortunately clashed with the release of the much better *1492* by Ridley Scott. That film also caused a rift between father and son, as Ilya's girlfriend Jane Chaplin (daughter of Charlie) had put up much of her inheritance for its production. Retirement, however, was never a consideration for this tiny, energetic man. Salkind continued to hold court at his yacht in Cannes, and to welcome on board a new generation of directors and aspiring actresses.

Alexander Salkind is survived by his wife Berta and their son Ilya.

PROFESSOR JOHN HARRIS

John Harris, Professor of Economic History at Birmingham University, 1970-90, died on March 5 aged 73. He was born on May 14, 1923.

BY HIS research, writing and teaching over almost 50 years, and by his many-faceted approach to his subject, John Raymond Harris left his highly individual stamp upon the study of industrial history. The unusual, non-textile base of St Helens, the town in southwest Lancashire where he had grown up, first aroused his curiosity. With a schoolfriend (from the age of five), Theo Barker, he decided to inquire into how coal, copper, chemicals and glass had given rise to the growth, from the later 18th century, of a predominantly working-class population nearing 100,000 by 1900.

While still in the sixth form of the local grammar school, the two of them decided to write a book about the town and gave some preliminary thought to it while starting their first degrees, in Harris's case at Manchester. They went their separate ways during the war, but returned to the project as part of their graduate work, both now at Manchester, after 1950. Their book, *A Merseyside Town in the Industrial Revolution: St Helens 1750-1900*, appeared in 1954. It was reprinted in 1959 and again in 1993, by which time both of them were retired professors.

During the war Harris served with the Royal Corps of Signals, was posted to the Indian Army (then short of signallers), and subsequently saw serious fighting with the 23rd Indian division in Indonesia.

Back home again, he completed his first degree in 1948 and took a teacher's diploma before proceeding to a doctoral thesis on the copper industry, very important in the early growth of St Helens, where ore from Angelsey was shipped around the coast, down the Mersey and up the Sankey Canal to be smelted. He paid particular attention to the remarkable entrepreneur involved, Thomas Williams of Llanidan, whose life he subsequently published as *The Copper King*, a book which well illustrates his rigorous yet readable style.

By then he had joined the staff of Liverpool University and was clambering slowly and productively up the ladder of promotion there, in the course of which he had the idea of starting *Business History*, a journal which survived a precarious infancy and still flourishes. He himself flourished, too. From a being a Reader at Liverpool, he was able to move on, in 1970, to occupy the Chair of Economic History at Birmingham previously held by W. H. B Court.

Harris had already become a strong advocate of industrial archaeology, as a means of coming to grips with the practical problems of technology and at the same time of attracting the support of the many "amateurs" with a special knowledge of their area or industry, but with no knowledge at all of economic history. He became particularly interested in the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, one of industrial archaeology's prize exhibits. With Neil Cossons — now Sir Neil, Director of the Science Museum — he formed in 1971 the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. He was its co-director from 1980.

When he went to Birmingham he was developing his international connections, especially with France, and his inaugural lecture dealt with industrial technology in France and England. It was followed by a stream of articles on technical transfer and the industrial espionage that often accompanied it. These were brought together in his book *Essays in Industry and Technology in the Eighteenth Century: England and France* (1992). All this involved much study in French archives, which received recognition in 1990 with his appointment as Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

His links with North America were also strong and he was a frequent visitor there. He took an active part in the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage and was its chairman from 1981 to 1984. At home he was a member of the Council of the Economic History Society and chairman of its time-consuming but very creative publications committee between 1972 and 1985. He spent much time in London as his subject's representative on the social studies sub-committee of the University Grants Committee and its panels from 1987.

John Harris was warm-hearted, generous and helpful to others. In return, he received unfailing loyalty and respect from those who came to know him, though this was not always easy, as he was basically a shy man, hesitant in conversation. There was never any pretence about him, however, and he was always proud of his Lancashire roots. He was easygoing, but could be ruthless when necessary, as when, after becoming its Dean in 1978, he had to sort out the last vestiges of anarchy which still plagued the Faculty of Commerce and Social Science. His firm and decisive leadership secured widespread support.

He did not enjoy the best of health after the war, for he had caught amoebic dysentery in the East and this left him with recurrent digestive trouble, though it became less frequent, especially after his marriage in 1953 to Thelma Knockton, also from his home town of St Helens.

After his wife's sudden death in February 1994 of a hitherto undiagnosed brain tumour, he offset loneliness by keeping in touch with friends, going regularly to the university and reflecting upon his studies over the three decades for his final book, *Industrial Espionage and the Transfer of Technology: Britain and France in the 18th Century*. He was gratified to have completed reading the finished proofs just before his final illness struck him.

Despite the wide range of this last international study, his most profound and enduring single work was his article published in *History* in 1976 and republished in his *Essays*, entitled *Skill, Coal and British Industry in the 18th Century*, in which he showed how the skilful exploitation of this basic fuel — and the atmospheric engine needed to pump the coal mines dry — gave Britain the great growth advantage over her continental rivals. No student of the Industrial Revolution can afford to ignore it.

It was typical of Harris that, having been admitted to hospital with heart trouble, he insisted on writing references for two of his former students before he lapsed into unconsciousness.

He is survived by his two sons.

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PROCEEDINGS ON *SHAW'S* WILL

VALIDITY OF TRUST

Mr. I. J. Pitman, M.P., will ask the Minister of Education in the House of Commons after Easter what report he can make on the intentions of the trustees of the British Museum in regard to the acceptance of a legacy under the will of Bernard Shaw. It is understood that proceedings to dispute the will are likely to begin soon, and that the trustees of the museum may be one of the disputants.

In his will, published in 1951, Mr. Shaw left the residue of his estate on trust to institute and finance inquiries into the use of an alphabet containing at least 40 letters, to be called the Proposed British Alphabet. The ultimate residue was left to be divided equally between the British Museum, the National Gallery of Ireland, and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

The validity of the trust may depend, among other things, on whether the introduction of such a new alphabet would, in the view of the court, be beneficial to the community or not. The failure of Shaw's testamentary instructions regarding the proposed British alphabet would mean that a third of a far larger sum would go to each of the bodies mentioned in the will as the ultimate legatees. The case will probably come before the court in the next two months.

Under the terms of the will the residue of the estate was left on trust to institute and finance a series of inquiries to ascertain or estimate as far as possible the number of extant persons who speak the English language and write it by the established and official alphabet of 26 letters; how much time could be saved per individual scribe by the substitution for the 26 letter alphabet of an alphabet containing at least 40 letters, enabling the language to be written without indicating single sounds by groups of letters or by diacritical marks instead of by one symbol for each sound; how many of these persons are engaged in writing or printing English at any and every moment in the world; on these factors to estimate the time and labour wasted by our lack of at least 14 unequivocal single symbols; and to add where possible to the estimates of time lost or saved by the difference between the two alphabets, estimates of the loss of income in British and American currency.

Shaw, who died in November, 1950, aged 94, left £367,233 (net value £301,585), on which duty of £180,571 had been paid. He had often discussed the subject of the proposed British alphabet with Mr. Pitman, and in a letter which he wrote to Mr. Pitman on July 19, 1944, he said:-

"I am therefore directing that my residuary estate shall accumulate for 20 years (the perpetuity limit) and be available meanwhile for financing certain exactly defined and limited operations — to wit (a) designing a new British one-sound-one-letter alphabet; (b) the transliteration into it of two or three masterpieces of English literature, including two of my own plays; and (c) the publication of these transliterations and depositing of copies in leading public libraries.

ON THIS DAY

March 26, 1956

Shaw's proposals for a new one-sound, one-letter alphabet of 40 characters to replace the 26-letter alphabet, were never realised.

Yesterday's taboo, 2020's entertainment

BRENDA MADDOX

Predictions for the next millennium, not in short supply, have one glaring omission. *What is the future of* pornography? In 2020 AD what images will remain taboo, now that virtually all is on show?

The desperation to identify some new source of forbidden titillation is shown by the outcry over the certification of the film *Crash* by the British Board of Film Classification for viewing by those 18 or over. The Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, has reminded local authorities of their power to ban it if they choose.

All sides seem to agree that *Crash* links sexual arousal with car accidents. The movie passed the BBFC's *muster* because, in expert opinion, it was not sado-masochistic. No one was seen to take pleasure from the suffering. The board's director, James Ferman, told *Today* on Radio 4: "If the film had included characters that were getting off on hurting other people, that would have made it impossible."

"Getting off on?" Now I'm shocked. Since when has this earthy expression been acceptable Radio 4 speech? Taboos are falling so fast that you can't be sure what is beyond the pale.

The *Daily Mail* is fiercely campaigning against *Crash* and the BBFC, calling the film depraved and an affront to common decency. In the same spirit, the Westminister City Council has banned the film, unless cut, for showing in the West End. In a letter to *The Times*, a Westminster councillor explained the concern for its possible "effect on those — no doubt a minority — who could be influenced by the values of the film".

Little except the medium (then print, now screen) seems to have changed from the kind of protective censorship exerted in 1909 by the Circulating Libraries' Association, then representing, among others, W H Smith, Boots and *The Times* Book Club. Sharing the widespread worry about the rise in literacy, these booklenders, according to *The Times* of November 2, 1909, undertook that: "In future, we will not place in circulation any book which, by reason of the personal, scandalous, libellous, immoral, or otherwise disagreeable nature of its contents, is in our opinion likely to prove offensive to any considerable section of our subscribers."

A reader's letter to *The Times* congratulated the association on behalf of "the British public that cares for the sanctities of home life, for a manhood with high ideals, and a pure womanhood" for "safeguarding readers from the contamination of the nasty novel".

Today our sanctities are guarded by the *numerous media watchdogs on standards* in advertising and in broadcasting. Yet did you catch *Cracker* on ITV on March 14? Young blonde serial killer harnesses near-naked man to a bed. The handcuffs go on, first one, then the other. Then his feet are shackled. As the fun turns to panic he screams "Please!" *to no* avail. For her next victim, in the graded intensification of humiliation traditional in pornography, the murderess, after tying *him up, tapes his mouth*, rubs him with Vaseline, then applies her electrodes to his extremities. If you think she didn't then switch the current, *you didn't see the programme*.

When this kind of sadomasochism is acceptable as free Saturday night entertainment for an audience of 7.9 million (*actual* viewing figures), what is the point of worrying about the impact a pretentious arty film that will be seen by merely *thousands, not millions*, of people over 18, they having gone out into the cold and paid a fair sum to exercise their choice?

Public taste on sex is liberalising very fast. Images once shocking (the bare breast, *the condom, male nudity, the* transvestite) are now acceptable on national TV and in advertise*ments. So what in 20 years'* time will we be laughing at for having been banned in the fusty 1990s? The erect penis, for certain, ejaculation, and sexual penetration: the three elements now taboo and whose presence distinguishes hard from soft pornography, absolutely forbidden.

The heavens will fall? I doubt it. Who 20 years ago would have thought that shots of sexual intercourse would be routine on television? Or that no film would be complete without an on-screen visit to the lavatory? More likely, we will shudder at the prudishness of the past, which made taboo the portrayal of the activities of the healthy body, yet savoured moving pictures of the human frame in a shattered state.

The profane images of 2020 AD will probably be the cigarette, the burger and the happy housewife with her elbows buried in suds. Along with these, with any luck, will be the seductive child and the emaciated female.

Amid such shifting standards, the protection of children must remain absolute, from the Internet and videos as well as from television. Far more alarming last week than the certification of *Crash* was the news that the 9pm watershed isn't working. Children of five and six are watching television late at night, often alone.

The answer is to keep TV out of their bedrooms and to keep someone in the house who cares what they are watching. But to try to ban a film restricted to adults, seen around the world without cuts or controversy, is worse than patronising. *It is* censorship.

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Guerin role for Jodie?

Jodie Foster, left, may enact the life of Veronica Guerin

THE actress Jodie Foster is being tipped to play Veronica Guerin, the murdered Irish *journalist, in a* Hollywood film based on her life. Sources say that Carol Doyle, the Irish film writer, is well advanced with a script for the project which is being masterminded by Jerry Bruckheimer, whose credits include *Top Gun* and *The Rock*.

The film is based in part on *The Martyrdom of Veronica Guerin*, an article written by the investigative reporter Mike Sager in the March edition of American *GQ*.

Sager, meanwhile, has hit upon a relatively untapped *seam of journalistic* inspiration. He is about to sign a six-figure deal with Bruckheimer, which would give the producer the first film rights on any story he is working on. The arrangement would also allow the studio to suggest stories for Sager to report on.

It is not the first time that Sager has struck gold. Last year he landed $750,000 from TriStar Pictures and Bruckheimer for the rights to a *GQ* story he had written about Janet Cooke, a former *Washington Post* reporter who won a Pulitzer Prize for a story that turned out to be bogus

Sager insists only that his latest deal with Bruckheimer would not affect his journalistic integrity or the types of stories he goes after "It just means that 18 years of journalist work is beginning to pay off retroactively," he says

Title hopes

A REFRESHING new twist to rumours that the EMAP-owned mag *Media Week* could be sold off comes with the news that Mathew Horsman, media pundit with Henderson Crosthwaite, has been having discussions with City financiers with a view to buying the troubled title. It seems that the indefatigable Horsman, who when he is not doing his day job writes columns for numerous publications and beavers away on his book on BSkyB, wants to relaunch it as a "super media title", bringing in specialist correspondents from all the national dailies as columnists. He may possibly even pen a column himself.

Pressing decision

THE barons of the regional press joined John Major for lunch on the day he called the general election. All the leading proprietors were present except one. But Philip Graf, chief executive of Trinity Holdings (the largest regional newspaper publisher in Britain which boasts 120 titles) insists that nothing political should be read into his absence. He sent a colleague in his place, saying that as it was the day before the board discussed the group's annual results, he had had to make a difficult decision about the best use of his time. Quite.

●*An article in last week's* Sunday Times *in which it was alleged that Cherie Booth had become anorexic after her husband became leader of the opposition in 1994 has infuriated Labour who say the allegations are totally untrue and they are seeking a retraction.* The Sunday Times *says it has yet to receive a complaint. Curiously, the suggestion that Ms Booth became anorexic is new, but the quote from an unnamed friend — "It's a bit like Princess Diana. She's been thrown into the public arena and she's nervous" — was old, having appeared in an anonymous profile of the Labour leader's wife in* The Sunday Times *in 1994. That the piece should have been written by Sarah Baxter is also intriguing. At the* New Statesman, *she was a trail-blazer for New Labour and until now has been a pin-up of the young bucks who staff Labour's rapid rebuttal unit in Millbank. It is feared that the dog-eared photographs of her will now be removed and her name spoken in only the most hushed tones.*

Not so fast

THE ASIAN AGE newspaper, published in London and Delhi, made a fatal mistake last week. Seeing a wire story about "tributes pouring in to Dame Vera Lynn", a sub at the paper hastily bashed out the headline "*World War II's Top Sweetheart Vera Lynn Dies*", stuck it on top of the copy and pushed it through. The sad news appeared in the paper.

Closer examination revealed, however, that the tributes — *from Queen* Elizabeth the Queen Mother and John Major — were prompted by an 80th birthday bash thrown for Damne Vera at the Imperial War Museum.

"It takes me back to the war," she says. "The Japanese used to put out reports that I had been killed in an air raid in the hope that it would lower the troops' morale."

Cashing in on the action

ADVERTISING

AN INCREASING number of big-budget ads, which almost amount to mini-movies, are tapping into the current taste for Hollywood action movies such as *Star Wars* and *Dante's Peak*.

The latest blockbuster commercial is the new Lowe Howard-Spink film for Smirnoff, out next week. This 60-second, adrenalin-pumping film shifts through seven sets and burrows heavily from *Mission Impossible*.

It features a villain and his henchmen in pursuit of a couple and involves runaway trains, rough seas and alien spacecraft. It took six months to film, cost an estimated £1 million to make (roughly five times the cost of an average commercial) and even takes its name — *Smarienberg* — from a combination of the Sixties chase film *Last Year in Marienberg* and the director Stephen Spielberg.

"The trend is emerging as brands become bigger and more global and are prepared to spend a lot more money than before on big, global campaigns," says one observer.

UNLIKEABLE advertising does work, according to Jaspar Shelbourne, executive creative director of J Walter Thompson, the UK's second biggest agency.

Speaking at the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising "It Pays to Advertise" conference last week, Mr Shelbourne flew in the face of received wisdom that likeability is the best route to effectiveness — that theory being that if you can get your audience to laugh or feel good, they will correspondingly remember the ad and smile on your product.

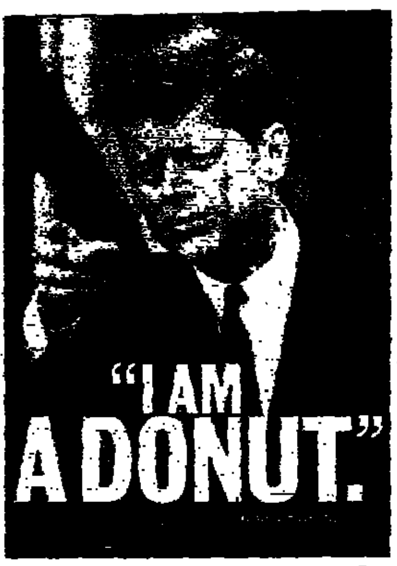
"Liking be damned. Effectiveness goes hand in hand with irritation," he said, then made his point by showing a series of commericials such as the infuriatingly memorable Shake N' Vac ad from the Seventies.

FAMOUS gaffes made by politicians when speaking foreign languages are to feature in a new press campaign for the translation company Wordbank.

They range from John Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner", which actually means "I am a doughnut", to Winston Churchill, who once addressed a French audience with the equivalent of "When I look at my backside, I see that it's split in two parts", instead of "When I look at my past . . ."

The agency Leo Burnett is scouring for some more recent gaffes with which to embarrass prominent British politicians in the pre-election period.

BELINDA ARCHER



A poster of John Kennedy's gaffe

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OK! is thought to have paid out £1 *million*

The Jacksons are happily married. *OK!*

OK! has pulled off a coup in getting the pop star to give his first interview in 18 years, says **Damian Whitworth**

MICHAEL JACKSON, the reclusive and eccentric pop star, broke cover this week in his usual elaborately orchestrated and impeccably hyped style to show off his newborn son and give his first interview in print for 18 years.

In doing so he achieved more than simply denying rumours that his marriage is a sham. His decision to auction photographs of him at home provoked the most astonishing salvo to date in the battle between the two frothiest celebrity magazines: a payout which is being trumpeted as the biggest ever in the history of so-called cheque book journalism.

The story in this week's *OK!* beat its traditional rival *Hello!* and was followed up by most national newspapers and television. In the magazine Jackson is shown playing happy families with wife Debbie Rowe and his one-month-old son, the extraordinarily named Prince Michael Junior. While the magazine will not disclose exactly how much it forked out it is understood to be well over £1 million and *OK!*'s editor Sharon Ring certainly does not underplay the deal.

"We believe it is the most that anybody has ever paid for a story," she says, but also stresses the other difficulties of dealing with such a superstar. "The money was an important part but there were also months and months of work like all scoops. It was like following the yellow brick road but we got to the wizard in the end."

Jackson, of course, — reputedly worth £600 million — hardly needed the fee, though an undisclosed slice of it will be going to his charity Heal the World. But according to *OK!* he was persuaded to do the interview in order to deny recent reports that his marriage to Debbie Rowe, a nurse, is merely one of convenience.

The line of questioning hardly appears to have been deeply probing but the magazine claims it will list next week the questions that Jackson refused to answer and Ring insists that he was not given an easy ride.

"This is his first interview, other than one on American television, in 18 years. It's a proper interview. We said 'Look, there's all this speculation' and he hits back at the speculative stories. He says it's a proper marriage."

The Jackson scoop is an audacious bid to take on *Hello!* which, at nine-years-old, is now the establishment figure in the market having pioneered at-home-with-the-stars journalism that *OK!* and others have aped.

If *OK!* is to close on *Hello!*, however, its robust marketing and scooping will have to be maintained. *Hello!* is still way out in front selling 536,000 copies a week. Sally Cartwright, publishing director of *Hello!* claims that the magazine was offered the Jackson scoop but the star was asking too much money. "The amount of money they felt the story was worth and what we felt it was worth were not the same."

OK! has outstripped the other challenegers to *Hello!*'s crown and built a circulation of 200,000, since it became a weekly publication last year, by providing readers with a slightly different package of beaming celebrities than are to be found in *Hello!*

One of the magazine's most successful covers ever featured the actress Michelle Collins (Cindy Beale in *EastEnders*) with her baby, and the magazine prides itself on avoiding the minor members of European royalty that crop up in its rival. This approach prompted Ulrika Jonsson to declare that she was bored with the aristocratic profile of *Hello!* "*OK!* has more accessible people and a more down-to-earth style than *Hello!*," she said.

Advertising soon at a cinema near you

Alexandra Frean on the ambitious attempt by the media company Carlton Communications to change the face of cinema advertising

HULTON/GETTY

For years, no outing to the cinema was complete without experiencing the unmistakable jingle of the advertising contractor Pearl & Dean

Cinemagoers up and down the country can expect a distinctly new experience as they settle down with their popcorn and Maltesers next month. It is part of an ambitious attempt by the media company Carlton Communications to change the face of big-screen advertising.

For millions of film fans, no outing to the cinema seems complete without experiencing the unmistakable jingle of the advertising contractor Pearl & Dean — "Pa paa pa paa pa paa pa pa paa" — but for Adam Poulter, managing director of Carlton Screen Advertising, it is an irritating irrelevance.

Mr Poulter points out that although 15 years ago Pearl & Dean controlled 70 per cent of all cinema advertising, today it has just 20 per cent.

The rest is controlled by Carlton Screen Advertising (formerly known as Cinema Media), which Carlton Communications bought last summer.

In an attempt to alter the public perception of cinema advertising and expand the business, Carlton has created a striking new film identity, which will play before and after all adverts in the cinemas it is contracted to from April.

It shows a star-shaped branding iron appearing out of pink, purple and red flames and then exploding onto the screen.

Branding iron ... brands ... advertising. Get it? The imagery, created by the corporate identity guru Martin Lambie Nairn (responsible among other things for the memorable screen "idents" of BBC2, Channel 4 and Carlton television) is hardly subtle.

Mr Poulter agrees that overcoming the Pearl & Dean legacy will be a struggle. "Their musical soundtrack is everybody's authentic idea of the cinema," he says. "But we felt that we could achieve it by creating an 'ident' that was very strong visually. Cinema is, after all, a form of visual entertainment," he says.

The new screen identity is the first stage in Carlton's game plan. Cinema advertising in the UK currently represents just 0.8 per cent of all display advertising, the equivalent of just £70 million.

Mr Poulter aims to increase it to 1.3 per cent of all media (equivalent to a spend of £134 million) by the year 2000. To do so, he will have to achieve compound growth over four years of 65 per cent.

"A forecast of 180 million admissions and 1,000 new screens over this period makes this an ambitious, but attainable target," Mr Poulter says.

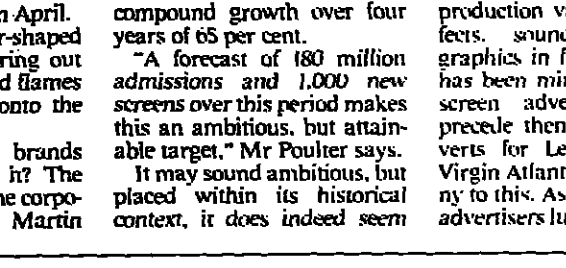
It may sound ambitious, but placed within its historical context, it does indeed seem more realistic.

The high point of British cinema was in 1945 when admissions reached 1.6 billion a year. The advent of television coincided with a steady decline, reaching a low point in 1984 when admissions bottomed at 54 million.

There has been a steady revival since then, due largely to the growth in multiplex cinemas (the first was built in Milton Keynes in 1985).

There are now 2,100 screens in the UK and admissions last year were 124 million. Between 1991 and 1996, 500 multiplex cinemas were built. Land contracts have been signed for a further 585, where construction is expected to start in 1997 and 1998.

"That, simply, is where we see the growth coming from. There will be more screens, bigger audiences and more minutage," Mr Poulter says.



Carlton: the new name in cinema advertising

Unlike America, where cinemas have historically been largely ad-free zones, cinema-goers in the UK have come to see cinema adverts as part of the entertainment.

Once the domain of tacky local curry house ads, cinema advertising has made great strides in the past two decades.

The steady improvement in production values, special effects, sound quality and graphics in films and trailers has been mirrored in the big screen advertisements that precede them. The latest adverts for Levi's, Pirelli and Virgin Atlantic are all testimony to this. As is the list of new advertisers lured to the cinema in the last two years — BMW, Häagen-Dazs, Nissan Micra, Sony PlayStation, and Whitbread's Boddingtons.

Providing that the adverts do not last more than 13 minutes, audiences do not just tolerate them, they now frequently welcome them.

Because of the dedicated, distraction-free environment in which they are watched, cinema advertisements are reckoned in the industry to be five times more memorable to viewers than television ads. And because of the nature of the cinema audience, they are arguably easier to target.

Although the core cinema audience of 16 to 30-year-olds has grown by 60 per cent in the past decade, the biggest increases have been at the periphery. The number of 7 to 14-year-olds going to the cinema has tripled over the same time, while the 30-plus age group has quadrupled.

This reflects the widening range of films available (a phenomenon itself made possible by the advent of the multiplex) with an increase in children's films, such as *Toy Story*, *Lost World* and *Batman and Robin* at the younger end and a growth in movies aimed at 30-somethings at the other such as *Sense and Sensibility*, and *The English Patient*.

It is among advertisers targeting these two groups that Carlton is expecting most of its growth — confectionery and toy manufacturers at one end of the scale and luxury goods, financial services and cars at the other.

Mr Poulter, who has increased his staff 40 per cent to 51, dismisses industry speculation that the only way he will be able to achieve his target is through a conditional sell of Carlton's television and cinema advertising as a package.

"We are an independent, autonomous operation," he insists.

Lambs to the slaughter

Theatre critics are only interested in titillation, says **Peter Hall**

We desperately need publicity for our new season. It gets harder and harder to sell anything. So poor old theatre has to shout louder to gain attention. It hasn't the funds to afford major advertising.

A few years ago, I was casting a play in the West End and suggested a major actor to my producer. "Please don't have him," he said. I couldn't understand this — he was perfectly suited to the part. "He will not give interviews. We can't afford that," explained the producer.

Actors are more reluctant to talk to the press because the rules have changed over the past few years. I know I shall be told that the theatre is lucky to get the amount of space it does. I also understand that we can't expect editors to be puff machines for the theatre. But we have reached a point where most theatre interviews are about sex rather than acting, personal relationships rather than theatre.

I discussed all this with the new Company at The Old Vic. We are a lean and mean organisation, without subsidy and financed by the generous patronage of the Mirvishes, the owners of The Old Vic. We have very little money for advertising. The Company agreed to help and there are some big names among them that are attractive to the press. We all knew the dangers. Take Lynn Barber.

Being written about by Lynn Barber must be an awesome experience. She is the undoubted star of the proceedings — not her subject — and she is only interested in whom she is interviewing so that she can express her prejudices and parade her resentments. She is bitchy (though usually amusing) and writes brilliantly. She is the Columnist of the Year.

Well... Felicity Kendal agreed to do a major interview to promote our Old Vic season: "I suppose it is time I was Barbered," she said cheerfully. I was grateful to her for traipsing off to the slaughter.

And slaughter it was — though there were some nice pictures. There was, unfortunately, very little about Felicity's work at The Old Vic: but a great deal about her private life. Here are two extracts: "Personally, if a man says he fancies Felicity Kendal, I take it as a sign that he is sexually defunct. But don't mind me. I am jealous." And: "Of course, she looked wonderful, wonderful skin, hair, figure — even her neck is unlined — though I was secretly gratified to notice that her hands looked older than mine, hideous knotted bony claws with crimson talons." Then Miss Barber moved on to Felicity's marriages and a list of her presumed lovers.

I greeted Felicity nervously the morning after publication. She was very cheerful. ("I was rather dreading it," she said. "But it was fine. I've known people come out of it much worse." And in a sense she was right. I was clear who had come out of it badly, and it wasn't Felicity Kendal.

Matters were not improved a few days later when a bewildered Michael Pennington came to rehearsal fresh from being interviewed by *The Independent*. The first question had been related to a scene in *Waste*, which the interviewer had seen. "What's it like to snog Felicity Kendal?" he asked. "Do you tongue each other... tongue down the throat?" Michael defended himself: "I think tongues are cheating when it comes to stage kissing. The audience can't see it... playing love scenes is daft."

> 'Most stories are about sex, not acting'

I imagined an *Independent* headline reading "Pennington denies tongueing Felicity Kendal". In the event, the interview turned out an interesting read, and there were even a few small mentions of the play. Cynics think that none of this matters. All that matters is that the theatre is talked about. But it worries me. Actors are hard-working, generous and responsible people. In my experience, they are no more promiscuous or hypocritical or treacherous than the rest of the population. So I don't like them being represented as sex-obsessed loonies.

The only thing that measures up to sex as a lure for the press is the whiff of conflict. "This is just a mini-National Theatre," said one journalist sniffily at our first press conference. "What makes you think people need The Old Vic? You're taking on Trevor Nunn, aren't you?"

What I should have done was to ring up my old friends, Richard Eyre and Trevor Nunn at the National Theatre, and Adrian Noble at the Royal Shakespeare Company and warn them that as I desperately needed the occasional front page, they were not to believe the outrageous things they would read the following day. Then I should have stood up and said: "I throw down a gauntlet to Trevor Nunn and his new National Theatre," or "Adrian Noble better watch out — we're after his Barbican audience." But I didn't. Thank God, *Waste* has had a marvellous critical reception. In these early days of building an audience, good notices are important.

There was one vociferous objector, Michael Coveney, in *The Observer*, who reminds me of the small child who is given an egg to hold and is cautioned not to squeeze it. Unfortunately, there are always a few children who will be tempted to close the hand and crush the egg.

Now I don't want anybody (and certainly not Coveney) to think that I object to him hating *Waste* ("a bloodless hieratic production") and my work in general: it is his right as a critic. But at the end of his notice, he parades his prejudice by writing off the rest of the season — which, for obvious reasons, he hasn't yet seen. "The evening never lives up to the subject, and presages a worthy season rather than an essential or pulsatingly attractive one."

This is maximum damage with minimum evidence. There are *eight* productions by other directors, including exciting new plays. But Coveney has made up his mind already. A pity...

● *The author is artistic director of The Old Vic*

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Scots Law Report March 26 1997 House of Lords

Receivers cannot recover both purchase price and property purchased

Sharp and Others v Woolwich Building Society

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde

[Speeches February 27]

The effect of section 53(7) of the Insolvency Act 1986 was to make available to receivers as security under a floating charge the property in which the company had a beneficial interest but excluded property to which the company held the recorded title but had no beneficial interest.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by the second defender, Woolwich Building Society, against a decision of the First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (the Lord President (Lord Hope), Lord Sutherland and Lord Coulsfield) (1995 SLT 837) upholding a decision of the Lord Ordinary granting, inter alia, a declarator in favour of the respondents, receivers appointed under section 53(7), that a floating charge granted by Albyn Construction Ltd attached to a flat at 10 Whinhill Road, Aberdeen, upon their appointment as receivers and that they were entitled to exercise their power to sell it.

The first defenders, Mr and Miss Thomson, claimed to be the beneficial owners of the flat as purchasers for money, having borrowed money from the appellants.

Section 462 of the Companies Act 1985 provides: "(1) It is competent under the law of Scotland for an incorporated company ... for the purpose of securing any *debt ... to create in favour of the* creditor in the debt ... a floating charge, over all or any part of the property (including uncalled capital) which may from time to time be comprised in its property and *undertaking*."

Section 53 provides: "(7) On the appointment of a receiver under this section, the floating charge by virtue of which he was appointed attaches to the property then *subject to the charge: and such* attachment has effect as if the charge was a fixed security over the property to which it has attached."

Mr Colin Campbell, QC and Mr A. R. W. *Young for the appellants*; Mr R. D. MacKay, QC and Mr P. S. Hodge, QC, for the respondents.

LORD JAUNCEY said that on July 2, 1984 Albyn granted a floating charge over the whole of its property which might from time to time be "comprised in out property and undertakings". The floating charge was duly registered with the Registrar of Companies.

Albyn then entered into missives with the Thomsons for sale of a flat at a price of £40,000 which was duly paid having been borrowed from the appellants. Entry was given on April 14, 1989. On August 9, 1990 Albyn delivered an executed disposition of the flat to the Thomsons' solicitors.

On August 10, 1990 the respondents were appointed as receivers *by the holders of the floating* charge.

On August 21, 1990 the disposition together with a standard security granted by the Thomsons to the appellants were recorded in *the General Register of Sasines*.

Thereafter a dispute arose between the respondents on the one hand and the Thomsons and the appellants on the other as to whether the floating charge attached to the flat on August 10, 1990.

In the course of a carefully reasoned judgment the Lord President concluded that since in the law of Scotland there could be no fragmentation of the concept of ownership and since property in heritage passed only on recording of the relevant deed in the appropriate register it followed that the property in the flat remained in Albyn *at the time when the floating* charge attached.

When floating charges were introduced by the Companies (Floating Charges) (Scotland) Act 1961 they were a novel conception the law of Scotland. They required to be registered after granting but only in the register in the companies office.

They might never crystallise. However, if they did and thereby attached to heritage it had been generally accepted that they had the immediate effect of a recorded standard security. The result was to create a real right in land which *had not been recorded in the* appropriate register of heritable rights and which took precedence over any prior grant of heritable rights which had not already been recorded. That was indeed a *significant innovation*.

The appellants accepted that a good feudal title to the flat could only have been acquired by recording Albyn's disposition but they argued that property for the purposes of the floating charge and section 53(7) of the 1986 Act was not synonymous with a feudal title to heritage. Rather did property in the context of heritage connote the current beneficial interest in the subjects which was capable of lawful disposal.

The respondents, on the other hand, maintained that the property in the flat was at all material times in Albyn, that the delivery of *the disposition did no more than* carry a defeasible personal right enforceable against the disponers. In the law of Scotland property in heritage was always vested in the holder of the recorded title thereto.

The argument for the respondents which was accepted below produced a most inequitable result for the Thomsons and the appellants who had between them paid the full price for the flat and would be left to rank with other creditors in any proceedings to recover what they had paid.

Conversely, the holders of the floating charge would have available as a fund out of which to satisfy Albyn's indebtedness to them, not only so much of the purchase price as remained in bonis in Albyn but also such sum as they might realise on the sale of *the flat*.

Albyn's property for the purposes of section 53(7) theoretically included both the purchase price and the flat itself. On any view that would be an unjust result.

The appellants were neither seeking to elevate the delivery of a disposition per se into the creation of real right nor to qualify the rule that recording is necessary to perfect a title good against bona fide third parties.

Furthermore, the appellants accepted that the rights conferred by Albyn's disposition would have yielded to a disposition in favour of a bona fide purchaser for value *prior to August 21, 1990*.

They were accordingly not seeking to challenge any to the propositions anent feudal rights contained in the respondents' authorities. There was in his Lordship's view *no principle* which required that the word property occurring in relation to crystallisation of a floating charge had to be given the restricted meaning sought by the respondents.

There was, on the other hand, everything to be said for giving it a practical common sense meaning which was likely to produce a fair and equitable results between the parties affected by the crystallisation.

"Property" was not a technical legal expression and neither in the Companies Act 1985 nor in the 1986 Act was there to be found any exhaustive definition of the word. It was therefore appropriate to construe "property and undertaking" *in a practical and realistic* way having regard to the context in which the expression occurred.

The purpose of a floating charge was to provide security to the holder in preference to the general *creditors and the role of a receiver*, once appointed, was to deal with the property of the company to which the floating charge had attached in such a way as to satisfy the debt thereby secured.

There was *nothing in the legislation* which specifically conferred on a receiver the right to do that which the company could not have done. Had Albyn after receiving the price and delivering the disposition *to the Thomsons* carried out the same exercise with a third party or granted a standard security over the flat in exchange for a loan it would have committed a fraud but the ability to commit *such a fraud did not amount to a* beneficial right of property: see *Heritable Reversionary Co Ltd v Millar* ((1892) 19R (HL) 43).

If the respondents were entitled now to sell the flat for which Albyn had already been paid they would effectively be confiscating that in which the only beneficial interest was in the Thomsons and the appellants and doing that which Albyn could not lawfully have done.

Had the legislation intended to confer confiscatory powers upon receivers such as were given neither to trustees in bankruptcy nor to liquidators it was more than remarkable that there was no *specific provision to that effect*.

When the statutory provisions referred to property and undertaking they had to be given the practical meaning of property which was available for the use of the company, in which it had a beneficial interest, and which it *was in law entitled to dispone or* subject to heritable security.

Those provisions were concerned with what was lawfully available to satisfy a company's obligations to the holder of a floating charge and not with formalities of feudal title.

The position of a receiver appointed under a floating charge differed from that of a trustee in bankruptcy or a liquidator in that it was accepted that his appointment created a real right in security over the company's heritage whereas the Act and warrant of confirmation without registra*tion did not clothe the trustee in* sequestration with a feudal title to the bankrupt's heritable estate. Similarly, a liquidator on appointment did not thereby acquire a real right to the company's heritage.

Those distinctions were basically procedural. However, if the respondents' argument were correct it would mean that not only did the holder of the floating charge have the procedural advantage of obtaining a real right of security without having to record any document of creation but that he obtained a further advantage in acquiring a right over heritable property which could not be obtained by a trustee in sequestration or a liquidator.

It would require very clear statutory provision to persuade his Lordship that Parliament had intended such a result.

At the time when the floating *charge crystallised by the appointment of the respondents* Albyn held the recorded title to the flat but had no beneficial interest therein. The ability to grant deeds in fraud of the disposition to the Thomsons did not amount to a right of property in law.

The effect of section 53(7) was to make available as security all the property in which Albyn had a beneficial interest.

Since Albyn had no such interest in the flat at the date of *crystallisation it followed that the* floating charge did not attach thereto.

LORD CLYDE, concurring, said that at one stage in his argument counsel for the respondents indicated that the consequences of construing the words "property and undertaking" in the way for which the appellants contended would have serious consequences both for the practical operation of floating charges and for the law of Scotland.

But the practical consequences when explored did not appear to involve greater difficulty than was already encountered in the kinds of inquiry which the receiver would require in any event to undertake.

Counsel accepted that there were no consequences so far as moveable property was concerned and although concern was expressed in *the First Division about the un*certainties in the operation of a floating charge which would follow upon the appellants' success, in the formulation of the argument which was presented before the House it was eventually not strenuously maintained that any serious problems should ensue.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Keith and Lord Steyn agreed.

Solicitors: Dyson Bell Martin, *Victoria for Dundas & Wilson, CS*, Edinburgh; Clyde & Co for Paull & Williamsons, Edinburgh.

Power to protect wife's interest in home

McMahon's Trustee v McMahon

Before Lord Prosser, Lord Johnston and Lord Wylie

[Judgment February 11]

Where a family home was owned in common by the wife and her husband's trustee in bankruptcy, *and both before and after her* husband's sequestration the wife had paid the instalments of a loan secured over the whole property, thereby preventing its sale by the secured creditor, the power of the court to impose conditions on a sale of the property by the trustee, under the Scottish equivalent of section 336 of the Insolvency Act 1986 in England, extended to requiring him to make recompense to the wife in so far as the house had increased in value during the time she had repaid the loan.

An Extra Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held, refusing an appeal by Mr Gerald Rankin, *trustee on the* sequestrated estates of Mr Robert McMahon, against the refusal of the Sheriff at Airdrie to dismiss a counterclaim by Mrs Wilma McMahon.

Section 40 of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985 provides:

"(2) Where the permanent trustee requires to obtain the authority of the court ... the court, after having regard to all the circumstances of the case, including —

(a) the needs and financial resources of the debtor's spouse or former spouse;

(b) the needs and financial resources of any child of the family;

(c) the interests of the creditors;

(d) the length of the period during which ... the family home was used as a residence by any of the person referred to in pararaph (a) or (b) above,

may refuse to grant the application or may postpone the granting of the application for such period (not exceeding 12 months) as it may consider reasonable in the circumstances or may grant the application subject to such conditions as it *may prescribe*."

Mr Patrick Hodge, QC, for the pursuer and appellant; Mr Michael Upton for the defender and respondent.

LORD PROSSER, delivering the opinion of the court, said that the bankrupt's estates included a half share in the family home. The respondent did not consent to a sale, and accordingly the trustee sought the necessary authority of the court under section 40.

In response, the respondent sought the imposition of a condition that she should receive from the sale proceeds half of the increase in the value of the subjects *from when she had begun to repay* a loan secured over them, or half of the repayments made by her.

The appellant contended that section 40(2) did not empower the court to require the payment of *part of the sale proceeds to a* dependent relative who was also a creditor.

The *Report of the Cork Committee on Insolvency Law and Practice* (Cmnd 8558) indicated that the mischief at issue was the effect of bankruptcy on the family's accommodation, rather than a need to prefer other family interests or in consequence to cancel in part or whole the rights of creditors.

The statute contained no general right to allow the needs of the family or dependants to diminish the fund available for creditors. Practical considerations supported that view, for otherwise the process of sale could open up an inquiry of the kind which one would expect to find in a complicated divorce.

If such applications were liable to give rise to such difficulty, it would become questionable whether trustees would attempt to realise such properties at all.

Furthermore, prescribing conditions under section 40(2) so as to give preference to the claims of a dependent spouse over other creditors would run counter to the careful equalising provisions *which had always been part of* Scots bankruptcy law.

It was common ground that in respect of her claim for relief for loan repayments made prior to the sequestration, the respondent was *an ordinary creditor*.

Her claim in respect of subsequent repayments, or the simultaneous increase in the property's value, was a claim against the trust estate, which she was entitled to enforce prior to the pari-passu ranking between the pre-sequestration creditors. Both were claims in unjustified enrichment.

It was accepted by the respondent that conditions could not be imposed in favour of persons other than the contemplated dependants; that they had in some way to relate to the family home, its sale or occupation; and that they had to be reasonable.

It was in the *Cork Report*, rather than section 40, that the appellant found indications of a fairly specific function to be served by any condition.

There was a possible flaw in that approach; unless scrutiny of the statutory provisions left one in some doubt as to their meaning, there should be no need to go to background documents.

In any event, the report had emphatically abstained from defining the types of condition that would provide the desired protection, and had opted for leaving the matter to the absolute discretion of the court (paragraph 1131).

In the section itself their Lordships could find no basis for reading it as imposing any constraints other than those conceded by the respondent. It might well be that it would only rarely or in unusual circumstances be seen as reasonable to produce a material diminution of the fund available *for the creditors*.

The fact that a hypothetical condition was competent did not mean that it was in the least likely to be imposed. Leaving the matter to the court did not imply a lack of control; it was a different type of control, perhaps less predictable and certain than the use of detailed specification of rights, but none the less appropriate, as the *Cork Report* recognised, in the interests of achieving justice in individual cases.

While there might be cases that gave rise to wide and perhaps complex inquiry, that possibility was opened up not so much by the possible variety of conditions to be considered, but by the width and variety of the circumstances to which the section told the court that it might have regard.

As for the ranking of creditors, section 40(2) was only one of a number of provisions which would result in a diminution of the fund available to them. It could be looked at as a preliminary matter, after which the ranking provisions operated in the normal way.

Law agents: John G. Gray & Co, SSC, for Barton & Hendry, Cumbernauld; Simpson & Marwick, WS, for Moore & Partners, Cumbernauld.

'Monklands Mafia' claim not defamatory

Brooks v Lind and Others

Before Lord Coulsfield

[Judgment February 28]

A newspaper report of descriptions of a local councillor as *forming* part of a "mafia", and of decisions in which he had had a part as "sheer lunacy" and "gross maladministration" had not been defamatory. The phrase "malicious misuse of public money", as a description of the funding by his local authority of consultations with lawyers to consider supporting him in an action for defamation, might have been defamatory, but given the councillor's personal *interest in such litigation it had* been fair comment.

Lord Coulsfield, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, granting decree of absolvitor in favour of Mr Gordon *Lind and others in an action for* alleged defamation brought against them by Mr James Brooks.

Mr Derek Francis for the pursuer; Mr Neil Boyd and Mr John McLaughlin for the defenders.

LORD COULSFIELD said that the pursuer complained of two articles published in the *Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser* in connection with his activities as a councillor, deputy provost and Labour group leader on Monklands District Council. A number of articles had applied the expression "the Monklands Mafia" to describe him and other councillors who were said to control the council, and the expression "Monklandsgate" had been applied to their activities.

However, it was reasonably *clear and not disputed, that while* those terms had been used to express criticism, they did not in themselves convey any suggestion of dishonest or improper activities.

The first of the two articles *complained of had reported* a council meeting called to discuss a joint venture that the council had entered into with a bank to develop a shopping centre. The project had exceeded its budget and the council had been asked to approve the payment of a further sum of £1,000,000 towards its completion.

The newspaper had named the pursuer as one of the councillors responsible for the joint venture agreement and had reported a dissenting councillor as saying that "it is sheer lunacy and gross maladministration". It had been a fair report of the meeting.

The second article had concerned consultations that had been held between the council's solicitors and, the solicitors understood, the council over the possibility of proceedings for defamation because of the use of expressions such as "Monklands Mafia".

Although as a result the council had decided to support legal action by the pursuer and another councillor, on the advice of counsel no proceedings had been initiated.

The article had reported the chairman of the local Conservative Party as commenting on the funding of the joint venture and of the *legal consultations and as writing* to the Local Government Audit Commission to say "there has been a malicious misuse of public money and it would seem appropriate that consideration should be given to surcharging the two persons responsible for instigating the action", identifying one of them as the pursuer.

In their context, even on the assumption that the expressions "sheer lunacy" and "gross maladministration" applied to the pursuer rather than to the council, they were not defamatory.

It was clear that the word "lunacy" was not to be taken literally. "Gross maladministration" was a criticism of the pursuer's judgment, not of his honesty.

Both expressions were examples of the "rough language" with which Lord McLaren had said in *McLaughlan v Orr Pollock & Co* ((1894) 22 R 38) those concerned with the conduct of public business had to put up. The suggestion that the pursuer should be surcharged neither necessarily nor in the present context implied *dishonesty*.

His Lordship was prepared to assume that the phrase "malicious misuse of public money" implied personal criticism of the pursuer. It did suggest that the consultations about legal action had been taken for wrong motives, and his Lordship had come to the view that it might be defamatory.

The phrase did not infer personal dishonesty. It might infer that that the legal action was to have been undertaken, at least in part, in the interest of the pursuer, rather than for the benefit or some legitimate interest of the council: but in all the circumstances, in his Lordship's opinion, that was a comment which could honestly and reasonably be made and clearly fell within the defence of fair comment.

The council meeting, the report thereof, and the letter to the Audit Commission were all privileged occasions. The question remained whether the newspaper's report of the substance of the latter complaint was also privileged.

His Lordship reserved his opinion on the extent of privilege, but was not satisfied that, had it contained defamatory matter that had not been fair comment, publication of the content of the letter, as opposed to the fact that a complaint had been made, would have been entitled to the benefit of qualified privilege: see *Mutch v Robertson* (1981 SLT 217); *Webb v Times Publishing Co* ([1962] QB 535) and *Gatley on Libel and Slander* paragraph 560ff).

Law agents: Paull & Williamsons, WS; Haig-Scott & Co, WS.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

Divorce order is enforceable abroad

Van den Boogaard v Laumen

Case C-220/95

Before J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, President of Fifth Chamber and Judges C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edward, J.-P. Puissochet and P. Jann

Advocate General F. G. Jacobs

(Opinion December 12)

[Judgment February 27]

An order in divorce proceedings for payment of a lump sum and the transfer of ownership of certain property was enforceable in *another contracting state under* the Brussels Convention if its purpose was to ensure the former spouse's maintenance.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held when giving a preliminary ruling, pursuant to a reference by the Arrondissementsrechtbank te Amsterdam under the protocol of June 3, 1971 on the interpretation by the European Court of the Brussels Convention of September 27, 1968 on *Jurisdiction* and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, as amended by the Convention of October 9, 1978 on the accession of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom (OJ 1978 L304 p77) and the Convention of October 25, 1982 on the accession of the Hellenic Republic (OJ 1982 L388 p1).

The parties were married in The Netherlands in 1957 under the regime of community of property. In 1980 they entered into a marriage contract, again in The Netherlands, which altered their matrimonial regime into one of separation of goods.

In 1982 they moved to London and in 1990 the High Court dissolved the marriage.

In her application for ancillary relief the wife sought a clean break between herself and her husband, and the court awarded her a capital sum so that periodic payments of maintenance would be unnecessary.

The court set the total amount which the wife should be awarded in order to provide for herself at a certain figure, of which part was covered by her own funds, the sale of moveable property and the transfer to the wife of certain property. As to the remainder the court ordered the husband to pay the wife a lump sum.

The court had held that the separation of goods agreement was of no relevance for the purposes of its decision.

On an application by the wife for enforcement of the English judgment in The Netherlands, one question which arose was whether the ancillary relief order was excluded from the scope of the Brussels Convention by article 1 or whether it could be covered under article 5(2).

Article 1 provides: "This Convention ... shall not apply to: (1) ... rights in property arising out of a matrimonial relationship. . ."

Article 5 provides: "A person domiciled in a contracting state may, in another contracting state, be sued ... (2) in matters relating to maintenance, in [certain specified courts] . ."

In its judgment the Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

The Convention did not define "rights in property arising out of a matrimonial relationship" or "maintenance," but those terms had to be distinguished as only the latter was covered by the Convention.

Because on divorce an English court could, by the same decision, regulate both the matrimonial relationships of the parties and matters of maintenance, the court from which leave to enforce was sought must distinguish between those aspects of the decision which related to rights in property arising out of a matrimonial relationship and those relating to maintenance, having regard in each case to the specific aim of the decision rendered.

It should be possible to deduce that aim from the reasoning of the decision in question.

If it showed that a provision awarded was designed to enable one spouse to provide for him or herself or if the needs and resources of each spouse were taken into consideration in the determination of its amount, the decision would be concerned with *maintenance*.

On the other hand, where the provision awarded was solely concerned with dividing property between the spouses, the decision would be concerned with rights in property arising out of a matrimonial relationship.

A decision which did both things could, in accordance with article 42 of the Convention, be enforced in part if it clearly showed the aims to which the different parts of the *judicial provision corresponded*.

It made no difference that payment of maintenance was provided for in the form of a lump sum rather than periodical payments. That form of payment could also be in the nature of maintenance where the capital sum was designed to secure a predetermined level of income.

The choice of method of payment made by the court of origin could not alter the nature of the aim pursued by the decision.

Likewise the fact that the decision also ordered ownership in certain property to be transferred between the former spouses could not call in question the nature of the decision as an order for the *provision of maintenance; the aim* was still to make provision, by means of a capital sum, for the maintenance of one of the former spouses.

The English court's statement that it did not consider itself bound by the separation of goods agreement should be read in its context and in any event was not relevant for the purposes of defining the nature of the decision.

On those grounds the European Court of Justice ruled:

A decision rendered in divorce proceedings ordering payment of a lump sum and transfer of ownership in certain property by one party to his or her former spouse *must be regarded as relating to* maintenance and therefore as falling with the scope of the Brussels Convention, as amended, if its purpose was to ensure the former spouse's maintenance.

The fact that in its decision the court of origin disregarded a marriage contract was of no account in that regard.

Reasons for document secrecy to be given

WWF UK (World Wide Fund for Nature) (supported by Kingdom of Sweden, intervener) v Commission of the European Communities (supported by French Republic and United Kingdom, interveners)

Case T-105/95

Although the refusal by the Commission of the European Communities of access to documents relating to an investigation which might lead to infringement proceedings under article 169 of the EC Treaty was justifiable on the ground of protection of the public interest, the Commission was not entitled simply to invoke that ground without more, but was required to indicate, at the very least by reference to categories of documents, the reasons for which it considered that the documents sought were related to the possible opening of an infringement procedure.

The Fourth Chamber (Extended Composition) of the Court of First *Instance of the European Communities* so held on March 5 when annulling a Commission decision of February 2, 1995 to refuse the applicant access to documents relating to the Commission's *examination of an Irish Government* project to build a visitors' centre at Mullaghmore in Burren National Park, Ireland, after the Commission, having investigated allegations that the *project infringed environmental* law *and* was ineligible for structural funds, had announced that it did not intend to initiate Treaty infringement proceedings.

The Court said that the code of conduct on public access to Commission and Council documents, adopted by the Commission under article 1 of Decision 94/90/ECSC, EC, Euratom on public access to Commission documents (OJ 1994 L46 p58) contained two categories of exception to the general prin*ciple of citizens'* access to Commission documents, of which the first, including the protection of the public interest, was drafted in mandatory terms.

While the Commission was not obliged to furnish, in respect of each document, "imperative reasons" to justify the application of the public interest exception and thereby risk jeopardising the essential function of the exception, it was required to indicate to which subject matter the documents related and particularly whether they involved inspections or investigations relating to a possible *procedure for infringement of* Community law.

Although the second category ("The institutions ... may also refuse access in order to protect the institution's interest in the confidentiality of its proceedings"), also relied on by the Commission *in the present case*, was in discretionary terms, the Commission had to strike a genuine balance between the citizen's interest in obtaining access to documents and its own interest in protecting the *confidentiality of its deliberations*.

It did not appear from the decision letter of February 1995 that the Commission had fulfilled its duty to undertake a genuine balancing of competing interests, and the Commission, in giving no indication, even by reference to categories of document, of its reasons for considering that the documents in question were related to a possible infringement proceeding, had not adequately stated the reasons for its decision, as required by article 190 of the Treaty.

Whether employees' rights are protected

Süzen v Zehnacker Gebäudereinigung GmbH Krankenhausservice (Lefarth *GmbH, party joined*)

Case C-13/95

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, J. L. Murray, L. Sevón, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edward, J.-P. Puissochet, G. Hirsch, P. Jann and H. Ragnemalm

Advocate General A. La Pergola

(Opinion October 15, 1996)

[Judgment March 11]

Where a person terminated a contract for the cleaning of his premises and entered into a new contract with another undertaking for the performance of similar work, the Community directive on the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings did not apply if there was no transfer from the first undertaking to the second of significant assets or a major part of the workforce assigned to the work *by the first undertaking*.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference by the Arbeitsgericht (Labour Court), Bonn, for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty.

Zehnacker, the employer of Ayse Süzen, the applicant, assigned her to cleaning operations in a school, under a contract between the school and Zehnacker. On the termination of that contract, Zehnacker dismissed the applicant and other employees who worked as cleaners at the school, and the school contracted the cleaning of its premises to Lefarth.

In proceedings by the applicant for a declaration that the notice of dismissal served on her had not brought to an end her employment relationship with Zehnacker, the Arbeitsgericht referred the question whether Council Directive 77/187/EEC of February 14, 1977 on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of businesses (OJ 1977 L61 p26) applied in the circumstances.

Article 1 of Directive 77/187 provides: "(1) This directive shall apply to the transfer of an undertaking, business or part of a business to another employer as a result of a legal transfer or *merger*."

In its judgment the Court of Justice held:

The aim of the directive was to ensure continuity of employment relationships within a business, *irrespective of any change of* ownership. The decisive criterion for establishing the existence of a transfer was whether the entity retained its identity, as indicated, inter alia, by the fact that its operation was actually continued or resumed.

While the lack of any contractual link between the transferor and transferee or, as in the present case, between two undertakings successively entrusted with the cleaning of a school, might point to the absence of a transfer in the meaning of the directive, it was not conclusive.

It had been held that the directive was applicable wherever, in the context of contractual relations, there was a change in the natural or legal person who was responsible for carrying on the business and who incurred the obligations of an employer towards employees of the undertaking.

Thus, for the directive to be applicable, there was no need for there to be any direct contractual relationship between the transferor and the transferee: the transfer might also take place in two stages, through the intermediary of a third party such as the owner or the person putting up the capital.

However, the transfer must relate to a stable economic entity whose activity was not limited to performing one specific works contract: Case C-48/94 *Ledernes Hovedorganisation v Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening* (*The Times* October 20, 1995; [1996] ICR 333; [1995] ECR I-2745, paragraph 20).

The term "entity" thus referred to an organised grouping of persons and assets facilitating the exercise of an economic activity which pursued a specific objective.

To determine whether the conditions for the transfer of an entity were met, it was necessary to consider all the facts characterising the transaction, in particular those stated in Case *24/85 Spijkers v Gebroeders Benedik Abattoir CV* ([1986] ECR 1119, paragraph 13). All those circumstances were merely single factors in the overall assessment to be made and could not be considered in isolation.

The mere fact that the service provided by the old and new awardees of a contract was similar did not support the conclusion that an economic entity had been transferred. An entity could not be reduced to the activity entrusted to it, and its identity also emerged from other factors such as its workforce, its management staff, the way in which its work was organised, its operating methods, and, where appropriate, the operational resources available to it.

The mere loss of a service contract to a competitor could not therefore by itself indicate the existence of a transfer within the directive: in those circumstances the service undertaking previously entrusted with the contract did not, on losing a customer, thereby cease fully to exist, and a business or part of a business belonging to it could not be considered to have been transferred to the new awardee of the contract.

Moreover, although the transfer of assets was one of the relevant criteria in deciding whether an undertaking had been transferred, the absence of such assets did not necessarily preclude the existence of such a transfer.

The national court, in assessing the facts characterising the transaction, had to take into account among other things the type of undertaking or business concerned.

It followed that the degree of importance to be attached to each criterion for determining whether or not there had been a transfer would vary according to the activity carried on, and the production or operating methods employed in the undertaking.

Where in particular an economic entity was able, in certain sectors, to function without any significant tangible or intangible assets, the maintenance of its identity following the transaction could not, logically, depend on the transfer of such assets.

The factual circumstances to be *taken into account* included, in addition to the degree of similarity of the activity carried on before and after the transfer and the type of business concerned, whether the majority of the employees were taken over by the new employer: *Spijkers*, paragraph 13.

Since in certain labour-intensive sectors a group of workers engaged in a joint activity on a permanent basis might constitute an economic entity, it had to be recognised that such an entity was capable of maintaining its identity after it had been transferred where the new employer did not merely pursue the activity in question but also took over a major part, in terms of *their numbers and skills*, of the employees specially assigned by his predecessor to that task.

In those circumstances, the new employer took over a body of assets enabling him to carry on the activities or certain activities of the transferor undertaking on a regular basis.

It was for the national court to establish, in the light of that interpretative guidance, whether a transfer had occurred in the present case.

On those grounds the Court of Justice ruled:

Article 1(1) of Directive 77/187 was to be interpreted as meaning that the directive did *not apply to a* situation in which a person who had entrusted the cleaning of his premises to a first undertaking terminated his contract with the latter and, for the performance of similar work, entered *into a new* contract with a second undertaking, if there was no concomitant transfer from one undertaking to the other of significant tangible or intangible assets or taking over by the new employer *of a major* part of the workforce, in terms of their numbers and skills, assigned by his predecessor to the performance of the contract.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Labour wants union role for judges

■ Labour was forced to disclose more details of its plans for trade union recognition, announcing for the first time that judges would have the final say in any disputes between employers and their workforce over recognising unions.

As Michael Heseltine accused the party of putting power back into the hands of trade unionists, Labour strategists had rapidly to flesh out its employment policy, adding details throughout the day .... **Pages 1, 10, 19**

Tory party members move to oust MP

■ Senior Conservative party members have begun moves to force Tim Smith, the MP who accepted £25,000 in cash from Mohamed Al Fayed, to stand down before the general election. Officers in his Beaconsfield constituency association are consulting grassroots members .... **Pages 1, 19**

Jurors jailed

A judge who jailed two women jurors for 30 days for contempt of court after they refused to take part in the jury's deliberations defended his decision to imprison them .... **Pages 1, 2, 19**

Rifkind accusation

Malcolm Rifkind thrust Europe *to the centre of the election campaign* by accusing his European partners of trying every two or three years to "lurch in a federalist direction" .... **Page 2**

Murderer aged 12

Sharon Carr, Britain's youngest female murderer, was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure after being found guilty of killing a teenage woman when she was 12 .... **Page 5**

Back on stage

The Arts Council approved two-year itineraries for the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet, just 16 weeks before the companies were *to become homeless* .... **Page 6**

Marconi bequest

The Marconi Collection of items from the earliest days of radio is to be given to the Science Museum after a U-turn by the electronics firm GEC-Marconi .... **Page 6**

Risks of fame

Sandie Shaw, the sixties pop star, singled out the Spice Girls when she told a university conference about the dangers of stress to musicians .... **Page 7**

Last cavalry charge

The Army's last cavalry charge, against the Dervishes at Omdurman in 1898, is graphically described in an officer's unpublished diary which is to be auctioned in Wiltshire .... **Page 8**

Dome of delight

On paper, the Millennium Dome *looks not unlike a giant whoopee* cushion pierced with cocktail sticks. In reality, it will be big enough to take 13 Albert Halls, or 50,000 people .... **Page 9**

Frankfurt protests

More than 20,000 German steelworkers protested in Frankfurt against banks. They made bonfires out of bank statements and chanted: "We will not be cheated out of our jobs." .... **Page 12**

Travellers warned

The Foreign Office warned British travellers to avoid the West Bank and Gaza Strip as Palestinians clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank .... **Page 13**

Parliament besieged

The Papua New Guinea Prime Minister was smuggled out of parliament in disguise as protesters and rebel soldiers besieged the building .... **Page 14**

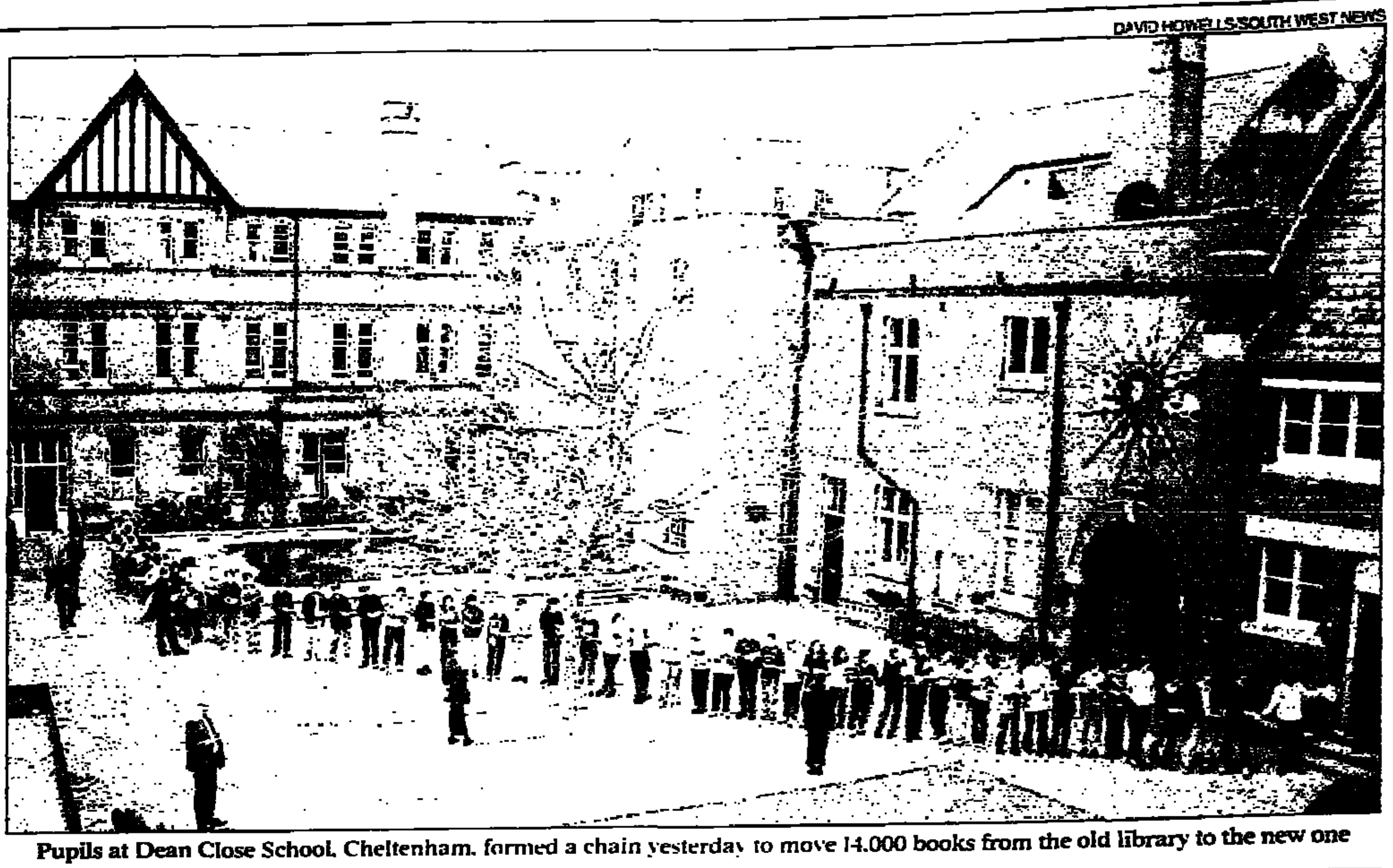
Misguided battle

Marion Barry, Mayor of Washington, said that the battle to win "home rule" for the American capital 23 years ago had led to the city's near bankruptcy .... **Page 15**

Minghella licks the Oscar opposition

■ Cones generously laced with vintage champagne were handed out to wellwishers at an ice-cream factory outside Ryde on the Isle of Wight yesterday as Edward and Gloria Minghella celebrated the Oscar success of their son Anthony. His clutch of nine for *The English Patient* was Britain's best performance yet at the Los Angeles awards .... **Pages 1, 3**

DAVID HOWELLS/SOUTH WEST NEWS



Pupils at Dean Close School, Cheltenham, formed a chain yesterday to move 14,000 books from the old library to the new one

BUSINESS

Bid victory: Prudential Corporation has won the battle for Scottish Amicable with a bid worth a total of £2.15 billion .... **Page 27**

National Savings: MPs criticised National Savings over a £50 million black hole that appeared in its accounts. They called for an accurate financial report to be submitted to the Treasury .... **Page 27**

Greenpeace: The environmental lobby group has applied for offshore oil exploration licences, the Department of Trade revealed .... **Page 27**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 55.9 points to close at 4270.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 97.4 to 98.0 after a rise from $1.6126 to $1.6183 and from DM2.7224 to DM2.7365 .... **Page 30**

SPORT

Football: Reduced to 12 fit players, the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, drafted in new men to paper over the cracks in the squad for the match against Mexico .... **Page 52**

Racing: A series of blunders, which ended with Tony McCoy being banned from riding in the Grand National, could lead to a shake-up in medical services at British racecourses .... **Page 52**

Golf: The selection process of the European team for this year's Ryder Cup will not be altered despite the wishes of the captain, Severiano Ballesteros .... **Page 52**

Snooker: Terry Griffiths, who had not played competitively for nearly a year, challenged strongly for a place in his nineteenth consecutive world championship .... **Page 50**

ARTS

Hollywood jungle: David Rabe's play *Hurlyburly*, about sleazy California movie folk, is so good that when a bomb scare disrupted the Old Vic action, everyone moved to the park outside .... **Page 38**

Bully for Billy: Duke Ellington's pianist Billy Strayhorn went largely unsung. A new biography redresses the balance .... **Page 39**

Rising star: Justin Meissner is 23 and already taking on demanding, virtuoso roles for the Royal Ballet, including the Covent Garden revival of *La Bayadère* .... **Page 39**

Russian thriller: Valery Gergiev's conducting technique is so highly charged you could probably run the National Grid from his baton. Richard Morrison sees him in action at the Barbican .... **Page 40**

FEATURES

Valerie Grove hears how Angus Deayton won an award for Most Promising Newcomer on the fourteenth anniversary of his career in showbusiness .... **Page 17**

STYLE

Sullied purity: They hang on the shop rails like some perfect fruit, but if you look closely, the process of decay has already begun. Jane Shilling on the white suit .. **Page 16**

MEDIA & MARKETING

Brenda Maddox: Predictions for the next millennium have one glaring omission. What is the future of pornography? .... **Page 36**

HOMES

Poisoned planet: Dr Paul Syms is researching how new life can be given to contaminated land so it can be used for housing .... **Page 45**

FOCUS

Global telecommunications: The technology that will revolutionise dialling worldwide ..... **Pages 35-37**

THE PAPERS

Russia's objections to Nato expansion have long been completely clear — and completely understandable. Mr Clinton is prepared to apply a variety of soothing balms to Russia's wounded pride to make expansion, if not pleasurable, at least tolerable — *Moscow Tribune*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ BOOKS
Books for Easter reviewed by John Habgood, Karen Armstrong and Eamon Duffy

■ FILMS
Hot from Hollywood: Geoff Brown on the week's new releases

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Two people are given a year to live. *Modern Times: Time of Their Lives* (BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond on a 4am trip to the Oscars .... **Page 51**

OPINION

Cheer up, Mr Brown

Surprisingly, it could be in the interests of Labour, as well as the Tories, to emphasise Britain's economic success .... **Page 19**

Czars and empires

The solution that Mr Blair outlined yesterday — the appointment of an anti-drugs supremo or "czar" — to lead the "war on drugs" may not prove to be the best instrument for his intentions .... **Page 19**

They the jury

Jury service should not be treated lightly. These women's actions suggest a cavalier approach to the administration of justice .... **Page 19**

COLUMNS

DANIEL JOHNSON

The National Lottery was a great success — on its own terms. But gradually the mood turned ugly. The Lottery was Mr Major's fatal mistake .... **Page 18**

ALAN COREN

Suddenly, all manner of ravening creatures have risen from the murky depths. They want me to throw them money .... **Page 18**

RICHARD CHARTRES

A group of Christian partners has vowed to rebuild St Ethelburga's church, destroyed by the Bishopsgate bomb, as a Centre for Reconciliation and Peace ... **Page 18**

PETER RIDDELL

The broad thrust of the British approach to Europe may change less than the parties now pretend. Britain is still unlikely to be at its heart .... **Page 10**

SIMON BARNES

Missing a fixture is like a gambling debt. You will be quicker to pay a lost bet with a friend because it is a debt of honour .... *Page 48*

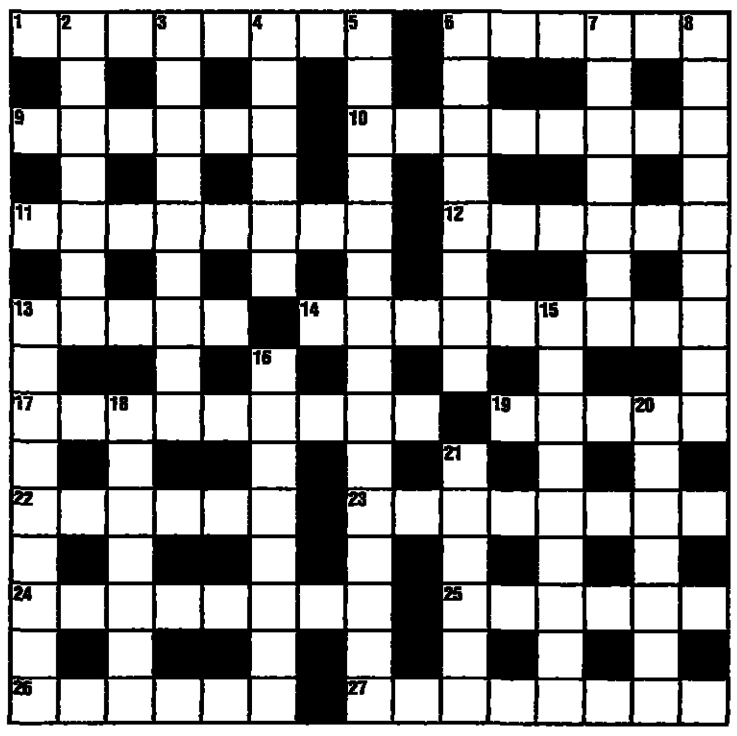
OBITUARIES

Sir James Highgate, president, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association; **Alexander Salkind**, film producer; **Prof John Harris**, economic historian .... *Page 21*

LETTERS

Sleaze; homosexuals in the Army; "looted" antiquities .... **Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,437



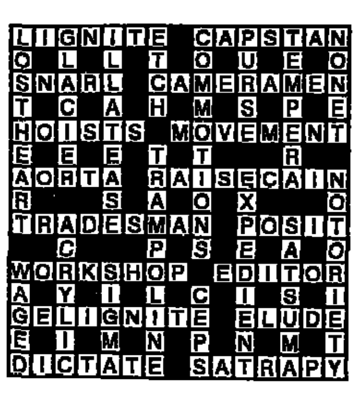
ACROSS

1 Part of the WI fusses after cutting remark (8).
6 A frog, one metamorphosed into noted groom (6).
9 Mixed bag in the post – sale offer? (3,3).
10 Unable to soak up the atmosphere (8).
11 Philanderer reluctant to have a port (8).
12 Odd character that is transposed in misspelt word (6).
13 Surviving with a bad back (5).
14 Accompanying notes too glib – a book needs revision (9).
17 One soon gives new issue a bit of bite (4,5).
19 Money unexpectedly found in a boat, perhaps (5).
22 New Oriental comrade, one from Asian kingdom (6).
23 Relaxed face's enigmatic expression (4-4).
24 Char employed by ministers needed drier (3,5).
25 Satellite channel is quiet, with zero backing in this country (6).
26 Director's less polite about his leading character (6).
27 Mum rushed about to do up part of Christmas cake (8).

DOWN

2 Amphibian in a bunch salmon rises to swallow (7).
3 Endlessly daring female – half-Scandinavian revolutionary (9).
4 Old fool joins party, almost late (6).
5 Plant finally settled in stable location (4,2,9).
6 Lifting jug, drop round for a send-off (8).
7 State raised contribution from millionaire – gladly! (7).
8 Dorothy confused about neat doctrine (9).
13 Carpeting in a Times political leader one ignored (9).
15 Soldier embraces a risque Italian hero (9).
16 Stun rhino on the rampage, circling round big rock (3-1-4).
18 Youngster keeps map showing where Santa lives? (7).
20 Substitute leads All Blacks meeting a town in Italy (7).
21 Leave ice out of sweet drink (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,436



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Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Aboyne, Grampian, 16C (61F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Aultbea, Highland, 0.67in; highest sunshine: Folkestone, Kent, 9.5hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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or contact your travel agent. All major credit cards accepted. Subject to availability and airport taxes. Bookings must be made 14 days in advance of travel: by 4th April for travel between [illegible] April and 31st May. No Saturday night stay required. See [illegible] page 35A. *From London Stansted.
AirUK

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a cloudy day with outbreaks of rain. In Wales and the west the rain will be heavy at times but in the eastern half of England it will be mainly light and patchy, with some brighter interludes. There will be a lot of hill and coastal fog in the west. The air will feel mild.

Scotland and Northern Ireland may have a dry start in many parts but cloud will thicken, giving rain or drizzle later. Shetland and the north will turn clearer but with showers and later the clearer weather will reach the west. Winds will pick up again, with gales in the north-west.

☐ **London, S E England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles:** some brightness but cloud thick enough at times to give some drizzle. Wind southwest moderate, fresh at times. Mild, max 14C (57F).

☐ **E England, Central N England, N E England:** cloudy, some brighter spells, mainly dry, some hill fog. Wind southwest moderate to fresh. Max 13C (55F)

☐ **S W England, S Wales, N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man, S W Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** cloudy, with widespread hill and coastal fog and outbreaks of rain, quite heavy at times. Wind southwest fresh. Max 12C (54F)

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll:** cloudy, outbreaks of rain or drizzle becoming clearer and brighter later. Wind southwest fresh, locally strong. Max 10C-12C (50F-54F)

☐ **N E Scotland, N W Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rain, at times heavy, clearing later to brighter, showery weather. Wind southwest, strong to gale, locally severe gale later. Max 7C-9C (45F-48F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain clearing the south; becoming settled and a little cooler.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

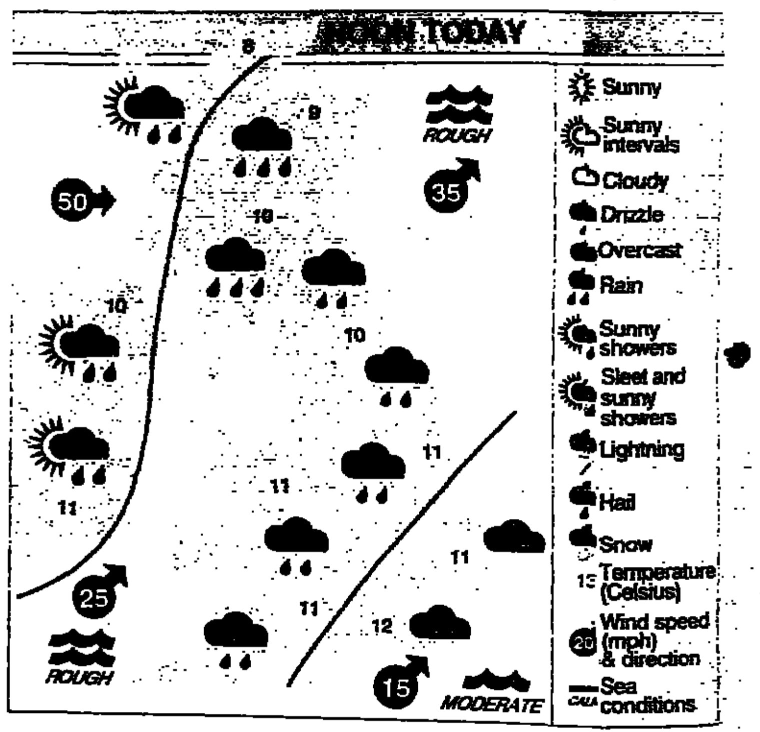
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.5	0.03	15	59	r	Lerwick	2.1	0.55	8	46	r
Anglesey	1.0	0.01	10	50	c	Leuchars	0.8	0.02	13	55	sh
Aspatria	1.3	0.07	12	54	d	Littlehmptn	0.2	0.01	13	55	c
Aviemore	3.9	0.01	13	55	b	London	3.9	-	14	57	s
Belfast	0.3	0.11	12	54	r	Lowestoft	8.0	0.02	11	52	s
Birmingham	0.4	0.01	11	52	c	Manchester	0.8	0.01	13	55	sh
Bognor R	0.1	-	14	57	c	Margate	9.2	0.03	13	55	s
Bournem'th	-	0.02	13	56	sh	Minehead	0.9	0.01	12	54	sh
Bristol	-	0.01	11	52	r	Morecambe	0.8	0.01	10	50	sh
Buxton	0.4	0.01	10	50	b	Newcastle	1.2	-	13	55	c
Cardiff	1.1	0.01	12	54	r	Newquay	0.1	-	12	54	c
Clacton	9.3	-	11	52	s	Norwich	7.7	0.03	13	55	s
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	0.3	0.01	11	52	r
Colwyn Bay	2.0	0.01	15	59	c	Penzance	X	-	13	55	c
Cromer	7.4	0.02	12	54	s	Poole	-	-	15	59	c
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	0.01	13	55	c
Eastbourne	6.7	0.01	12	54	s	Ross-o-wye	0.4	0.01	11	52	sh
Edinburgh	0.6	0.01	13	55	r	Salcombe	0.9	-	13	55	c
Eskdalemuir	0.4	0.08	9	48	r	Sandown	-	0.01	13	55	c
Exmouth	0.1	0.01	12	54	c	Sauntn Snd	0.5	0.02	11	52	du
Falmouth	2.0	-	14	57	c	Scarboro'	1.0	0.01	11	52	b
Fishguard	1.0	0.01	12	54	r	Shrewsbury	0.5	0.01	12	54	r
Folkestone	9.5	-	13	55	s	Skegness	2.5	0.01	13	55	s
Glasgow	3.3	0.05	12	54	r	Southport	-	-	13	55	b
Guernsey	X					Southsea	-	-	13	55	c
Hastings	7.6	-	14	57	s	Stornoway	6.1	0.28	11	52	r
Hayling I.	0.1	0.01	13	55	c	Swanage	-	0.01	13	55	sh
Hove	6.4	0.01	11	52	b	Teignmouth	-	0.01	14	57	c
Hunstanton	X	0.02	13	55	s	Tenby	-	0.02	10	50	d
Ilfracombe	X					Tiree	4.1	0.09	12	54	s
Isle of Man	0.4	0.05	10	50	r	Torquay	0.2	-	13	55	c
Jersey	0.1	0.01	13	55	c	Ventnor	0.4	0.01	13	55	c
Kinloss	5.3	0.01	15	59	s	West-s-mare	-	-	11	52	c
Leeds	0.9	0.02	13	55	r	Weymouth	0.7	0.04	11	52	du

ABROAD

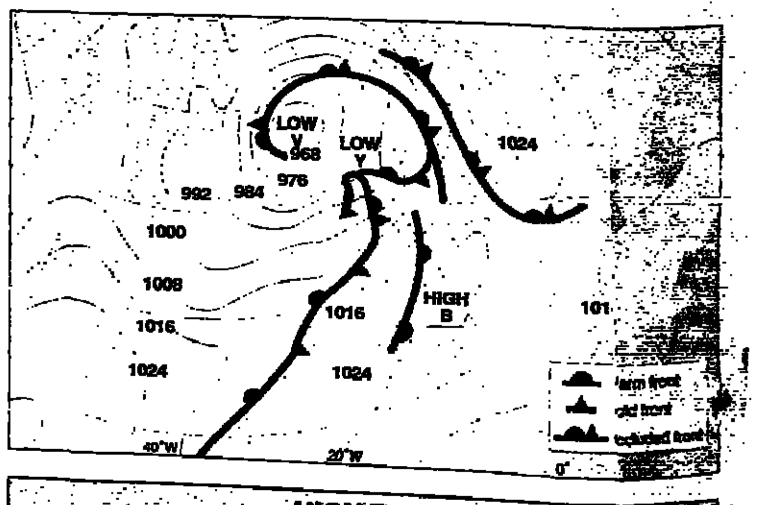
Ajaccio	16	61	f	Corfu	11	52	f	Madrid	20	68	s	Rome	12	54	r
Akrotiri	10	50	r	C'phagn	3	37	f	Majorca	19	66	s	S Fr'isco	15	59	s
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Dublin	12	54	f	Malaga	19	66	s	S Paulo	26	79	c
Algiers	18	64	s	Dubrovnik	10	50	f	Malta	17	63	s	Salzburg	6	43	c
Amst'dm	9	48	c	Faro	20	68	s	Melb'rne	18	64	f	Santiago	24	75	s
Athens	11	52	f	Florence	11	52	c	Miami	28	82	s	Seoul	11	52	s
B Aires	21	70	s	Frankfurt	10	50	f	Milan	14	57	f	Sing'por	32	90	f
Bahrain	26	79	s	Funchal	16	61	f	Montreal	-6	21	s	St'kholm	0	32	f
Bangkok	36	97	f	Geneva	10	50	f	Moscow	-5	23	s	Strasb'rg	9	48	c
Barbados	25	77	c	Gibraltar	18	64	s	Munich	6	43	c	Sydney	20	68	c
Barcelona	16	61	f	Helsinki	-1	30	sn	N Delhi	X			Tangier	21	70	s
Beirut	14	57	f	Hong K	18	64	c	N York	4	39	s	Tel Aviv	15	59	f
Belgrade	8	46	f	Innsbrck	9	48	f	Nairobi	27	81	c	Tenerife	21	70	f
Berlin	5	41	s	Istanbul	4	39	f	Naples	12	54	r	Tokyo	9	48	s
Bermuda	16	61	c	Jeddah	26	79	s	Nice	16	61	s	Toronto	2	36	s
Biarritz	15	59	f	Jo'burg	22	72	f	Oslo	3	37	c	Tunis	19	66	c
Borde'x	15	59	c	Karachi	X			Paris	10	50	c	Valencia	25	77	s
Brussels	8	46	d	L Angels	15	59	f	Peking	13	55	s	Vanc'ver	7	45	[illegible]
Budapst	6	43	f	L Palmas	22	72	f	Perth	26	79	s	Venice	9	48	f
Cairo	18	64	f	Le Touqet	9	48	f	Prague	1	34	c	Vienna	3	37	c
Cape Tn	26	79	s	Lisbon	21	70	s	Reykjavik	2	36	r	Warsaw	2	36	c
Ch'church	14	57	x	Locarno	9	48	f	Rhodes	11	52	s	Wash'ton	8	46	s
Chicago	3	37	f	Luxembg	8	46	c	Rio de J	25	77	f	Wel'ngton	13	55	x
Cologne	8	46	c	Luxor	23	73	s	Riyadh	21	70	f	Zurich	9	48	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low Y moves rapidly east and deepens; low V drifts east and fills; high B moves into north Africa as a new high develops in mid-Atlantic



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	03.01	7.1	15.20	7.2
Aberdeen	02.29	4.1	14.41	4.2
Avonmouth	08.24	13.1	20.42	13.1
Belfast	-	-	12.15	3.4
Cardiff	08.10	12.2	20.28	12.1
Devonport	06.59	5.5	19.17	5.4
Dover	00.03	6.5	12.14	6.4
Dublin (N Wall)	00.27	3.9	12.49	3.9
Falmouth	06.30	5.3	18.48	5.2
Greenock	01.55	3.1	13.51	3.3
Harwich	00.58	3.9	13.15	3.9
Holyhead	11.35	5.5	23.51	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	07.31	8.6	19.45	8.7
Ilfracombe	07.11	9.0	19.26	9.0
King's Lynn	07.37	6.5	19.48	6.6

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	03.51	[illegible]	16.12	5.4
Liverpool	00.15	[illegible]	12.30	9.3
Lowestoft	10.45	[illegible]	22.59	2.5
Margate	01.04	[illegible]	13.24	4.6
Milford Haven	07.25	[illegible]	19.42	6.8
Newquay	06.16	[illegible]	18.33	6.8
Oban	[illegible]	[illegible]	19.15	3.9
Penzance	[illegible]	5.4	18.03	5.3
Portland	[illegible]	[illegible]	20.30	1.9
Portsmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	12.35	4.5
Shoreham	[illegible]	6.1	12.26	6.0
Southampton	-	[illegible]	12.00	4.4
Swansea	07.33	[illegible]	19.48	9.1
Tees	[illegible]	[illegible]	17.01	5.3
Walton-on-N	00.51	4.0	13.09	4.0

All times GMT. Heights in metres

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.50 am
Sun sets: 6.24 pm
Moon sets 6.53 am
Moon rises 8.59 pm
Last quarter March 31

London 6.24 pm to 5.48 am
Bristol 6.34 pm to 5.57 am
Edinburgh 6.39 pm to 5.57 am
Manchester 6.[illegible] pm to 5.55 am
Penzance 6.4[illegible] pm to 6.10 am

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THE TIMES 2

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WEDNESDAY MARCH 26 1997

National Savings criticised over £50m 'black hole'

By Adam Jones

AN all-party group of MPs yesterday blamed "deplorable" laxness at the National Savings arm for a £50 million accounting "black hole" and other discrepancies.

A report published by the Select Committee of Public Accounts said National Savings, which manages £57 billion, had failed to heed warnings of fundamental problems in its "seriously inadequate" financial control systems.

It said: "The agency's failure to tackle in a timely manner the serious weaknesses identified as long ago as the mid 1980s points to a lack of competence on the part of those managing the agency."

It added that previous heads of National Savings had "inadequately discharged" their responsibility to ensure effective financial controls.

The report also cast doubt on the National Savings assertion that fraud in the organisation was tiny. Detected fraud amounted to only £14,000, in just four cases. The MPs said: "The absence of such [financial] controls leads to a greatly increased risk that fraud could occur and remain undetected."

The MPs were investigating the findings of the National Audit Office (NAO). Last October the NAO said there were massive discrepancies in National Savings' 1994 accounts. Mistakes in two "suspense accounts", used as clearing stations for investors' funds, led to a £50 million liability being inexplicably registered. Other discrepancies involved £12 million that should have been due from Post Office Counters. The problems stem from a period before the arrival of Peter Bareau, the current chief executive, who joined from the banking industry last year.

He told MPs that overall mistakes have been reduced to a net £3 million in favour of the Treasury. There was never any question of customers losing money.

A spokeswoman for National Savings said: "We are studying the Public Accounts Committee Report. We are going to be discussing the issue with the Treasury before we give our considered response to Parliament."

The agency has said that it will complete its investigations into the discrepancies by the end of 1997.

The report also said: "We are concerned at the lack of senior finance staff with appropriate accountancy qualifications." National Savings is recruiting to remedy the problem.

John Patterson, head of National Savings from 1986-1991, said it has been historically difficult to recruit senior accountancy staff on civil service pay. He said he employed a qualified accountant as finance director.

Mr Patterson declined to comment on other parts of the report, which he had not seen. But he said a favourable official report on the agency had been issued in the year of his retirement.

David Butler, who retired as chief executive in 1995, declined to comment on the MPs' criticism of previous management.

Pennington, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4270.7	(+55.9)
Yield	3.77%	
FTSE All share	2082.52	(+21.23)
Nikkei	18439.61	(+395.79)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6927.53	(+22.28)*
S&P Composite	795.01	(+4.12)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	96 7/32*	(96 11/32)
Yield	6.89%*	(6.92%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 5/32%	(6 3/16%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	109 17/32	(109 5/16)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6170*	(1.6197)
London:		
$	1.6190	(1.6122)
DM	2.7372	(2.7217)
FFr	9.2290	(9.1820)
SFr	2.3730	(2.3501)
Yen	200.58	(197.99)
£ Index	98.0	(97.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.6916*	(1.6885)
FFr	5.7075*	(5.6930)
SFr	1.4663*	(1.4585)
Yen	123.83*	(122.98)
$ Index	104.5	(104.1)

Tokyo close Yen 123.31

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$19.75	($19.60)

GOLD

London close	$349.15	($350.50)

* denotes midday trading price

Reversing

Rover, the carmaker now owned by BMW, suffered losses of DM279 million last year, compared with DM335 million in 1995. John Major nevertheless praised the success of the British motor industry during a visit to the West Midlands.
Page 28

Shattering

A profits warning from Pilkington, the glass group, sent the shares down to their lowest level for more than three years. Forecasts were cut from £175 million to £130 million for the year.
Page 33, Tempus 30

Pru wins ScotAm with offer of £2.15bn

By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent

PRUDENTIAL Corporation has triumphed in the bidding war for Scottish Amicable, the mutual life insurer, with an offer worth a total of £2.15 billion.

Scottish Amicable policyholders will share a cash-and-bonus package worth more than £1.5 billion.

Scottish Amicable's board confirmed yesterday that it would recommend the offer, worth an average £1,400 to each of its 1.1 million with-profits policyholders.

The Pru is paying £850 million from its shareholders' and policyholders' funds for the business and name of ScotAm. Of this, £600 million will be paid in cash to policyholders on completion of the deal, and a further £250 million paid in bonuses over the life of policies.

Under the terms of the offer, ScotAm policyholders will be given a further £500 million from the surplus in their own life fund. In order to smooth returns during lean stock market years, Prudential will lend the fund £1.3 billion for investment purposes.

The disappointed bidders, AMP and Abbey National, are now expected to turn their attention to other life insurers, although Abbey said yesterday that it had "no plans at present" to buy another life company.

Under the proposals, Scottish Amicable's life fund will be closed to new business, demutualised and become a subsidiary of Prudential.

A new company called Scottish Amicable Life plc will operate as a separate company selling its own products through independent financial advisers (IFAs) and appointed representatives (ARs).

Scottish Amicable said the average payment to members would be £1,400, comprising £550 in cash from Prudential shareholders' and policyholders' funds to compensate for the loss of membership rights; £430 as a special reversionary bonus paid partly from Prudential and partly from the Scottish Amicable life fund surplus; and extra payments over the lifetime of the policy from the surplus. The total amount will vary according to policy size, type and age.

Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive of Prudential, said Prudential would gain exposure to the growing IFA market and add mortgage, personal pension, unit-linked and long-term care products to Prudential's portfolio.

He said the acquisition would initially dilute earnings until new business had been built up, but this would not show on the balance sheet until the interim results in 1998. Prudential share rose 15½p to 555½p.

Scottish Amicable had originally planned to end its mutual status and float on the stock exchange in two or three year's time, but Abbey National made a bid, followed by Prudential and AMP.

Prudential will have funds under management totalling more than £100 billion after the merger.

Prudential has guaranteed that 1,500 employees at Scottish Amicable's headquarters will be retained for at least three years. The board of Scottish Amicable, which was criticised for constructing a generous share benefit scheme under the original demutualisation plans, will be eligible for Prudential's long-term incentive scheme if they become Prudential senior managers.

Sir Peter said that the Prudential was considering incorporating Scottish Amicable's investment management division, based in Glasgow, into its international network of fund management centres, although the matter was "still under discussion". It employs 280 staff.

The proposals will be subject to a 75 per cent vote in favour by members at a special general meeting in June, and the deal is likely to be completed in the autumn.

Davis: adding products

Pennington, page 29

ANTHONY UPTON

Oliver Whitehead, chief executive of Alfred McAlpine, reflects yesterday on the company's return to the black with profits of £9.4 million last year

Back in black

ALFRED McAlpine, the construction group, returned to profit in 1996, earning £9.4 million before tax compared with losses of £23.5 million in 1995. Turnover fell to £593.6 million from £757.26 million. Earnings were 10p a share (37.2p loss). The dividend is held at 7p, with a 4p final.

Quarter-point rise for US rates

By Janet Bush, economics editor

AMERICAN interest rates were raised by a quarter point yesterday, the first touch on the monetary brakes by the US Federal Reserve for more than two years.

The Federal Open Market Committee, which met yesterday, lifted its key Federal Funds rate by 0.25 per cent to 5.50 per cent but left the discount rate unchanged at 5 per cent.

The Fed, which has not changed monetary policy since January 1996, when it cut rates by a quarter point, said it had decided to raise rates in light of persisting strength in the economy. The rate rise was a "prudent step" aimed at extending the economic expansion and emphasised the importance of maintaining low inflation for the overall health of the economy.

The decision was widely expected but shares were still somewhat volatile in the immediate aftermath. Just before the news, the Dow Jones industrial average had been quoted about 15 points higher. In the minutes after the decision was announced, it rallied to a gain of about 40 as investors expressed relief that the Fed had not announced a more aggressive rise in rates. But then the Dow turned lower again to record a loss of about ten points.

European stock and bond markets had rallied in advance of the news, cheered by Wall Street's resilience this week despite widespread expectations that American rates would go up.

The FT-SE 100 index finished 55.9 points higher at 4,270.7, recovering some of the 209 points lost over the previous six sessions, and reacting to Wall Street's 100-point recovery on Monday. As the London market closed, the Dow Jones industrial average was quoted 28 points higher.

The Fed's move had already been priced into stock market levels after Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, all but confirmed to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress the Fed would raise rates, when he he emphasised the strength of the American economy and the importance of acting pre-emptively to head off inflationary pressures.

Leading article, page 19
Keynes, the prodigal, page 31

Stores line up in Littlewoods sale

By Sarah Cunningham

ABOUT a dozen retailers, including the main supermarket groups, are believed to have entered the running to buy Littlewoods' chain of 135 high street stores.

Sales memoranda were sent out last week by BZW, Littlewood's advisers, and potential buyers are expected to come back with firm offers in about six weeks, market sources say. Littlewoods is expected to raise more than £500 million.

Property companies have been excluded from the bidding, the sources say, but retailers, including Asda, Tesco, J Sainsbury and Safeway have been sent a copy of the detailed memorandum. Stores groups including Kingfisher, Marks & Spencer, Storehouse and Next are also believed to be in the running. However, none is under any obligation to proceed with a bid.

So far, only companies willing to bid alone have been included but some property companies are believed to be keen to join consortia.

Oftel orders cut in cost of calls to mobile phones

By Eric Reguly

THE cost of making calls to mobile phones is too expensive and should come down by about 30 per cent, Don Cruickshank, the Director-General of Telecommunications, said yesterday.

He gave British Telecom and Vodafone and Cellnet, the two largest mobile phone companies, a year to cut the charges to levels that more realistically reflect their true costs. Mr Cruickshank said: "My firm view is that prices are too high, so the industry can act or I will."

Vodafone, operator of the largest mobile phone network, agreed to reduce its charges but said that it had hoped to do so over the next three or four years. "But if Oftel wants us to do it sooner, that's okay with us," a spokesman said.

Oftel's comments were triggered by complaints from consumers and businesses about the relatively high cost of making calls to mobile telephones from a fixed BT telephone. The cost now exceeds the price of making fixed-line calls to New York.

BT charges its retail customers 32p per minute to call a Vodafone or Cellnet mobile phone. About three quarters of this amount is paid to the mobile phone companies to deliver calls to their customers; BT keeps ther rest. Mr Cruickshank said: "In my view, the average retail rate to call a mobile network from a BT phone might come down by about another 10p per minute."

BT and the mobile phone companies will now have to negotiate lower interconnection charges with each other, allowing the retail prices to fall. Vodafone and Cellnet, which is 60 per cent owned by BT, have been using the high call charges to help subsidise handset prices. Almost seven million handsets are in use in the United Kingdom.

Greenpeace oils the wheels of conservation

By Carl Mortished

GREENPEACE has decided to take on the oil companies by making an application for the entire 22,000 sq miles in the Government's 17th oil licensing round.

The environmental group, which infuriated the oil industry with its campaign against the dumping of the Brent Spar, has invested £3,000 in a formal application to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, for all 25 blocks. The licences are normally awarded to oil companies for exploration purposes but, instead of drilling wells, Greenpeace proposes to count whales and dolphins.

Greenpeace said the move was part of its campaign to limit fossil fuel use. In a letter to Mr Lang, the organisation states that it wishes to be considered "operator and guardian of the licence area", located mainly in the Atlantic Frontier, west of the Shetlands. The letter requests the Government to honour its commitment to the UN climate convention by granting Greenpeace a "production licence for non-intervention". A Greenpeace delegation met Department of Energy officials yesterday to present detailed proposals.

A spokesman for the group said the officials seemed bemused but invited them for further consultations. The government's criteria for awarding licences is "the need for expeditious, thorough efficient and safe exploration to identify oil and gas resources ... with due regard to environmental considerations". Greenpeace's application hinges on the last point.

The oil industry was not amused; a spokesman for the Offshore Operators Association said: "Whatever Greenpeace might believe, life today and the expectations of consumers depend on the adequate availability of fossil fuels."

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TIMES 26-3

Deutsche chief set to retire

Deutsche Bank confirmed Sir John Craven is to retire as chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, its investment banking arm, at the end of June.

The German bank, which is expected to report 1996 net profits of DM2.2 billion today, up from DM2.1 billion in 1995, will also confirm that the cost of bailing out Morgan Grenfell and compensating up to 90,000 unit trust investors after the Peter Young affair is about £380 million. Compensation payments are due to be made shortly. Morgan Grenfell is braced for a fine by Imro, the City watchdog, that could top £1 million.

Sir John is to join the international advisory board of Deutsche Bank. Today, he becomes non-executive chairman of Lonhro, the international trading conglomerate.

FBD ahead

FBD Holdings, the farm insurer in the Republic of Ireland, increased pre-tax profits 5 per cent to Ir£14 million last year. Earnings increased 5.6 per cent to Ir28p a share. The final dividend is 4.35p, lifting the total 14 per cent to 7.7p.

Bardon slips

Bardon, the quarrying and aggregates group, suffered a 4 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £23.4 million (£24.3 million) last year. Earnings dropped to 2.4p (2.5p) a share. A final dividend of 1.2p, due on July 11, holds the total at 2p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.14	1.98
Austria Sch	20.10	18.60
Belgium Fr	58.96	54.66
Canada $	2.328	2.168
Cyprus Cyp£	0.845	0.790
Denmark Kr	10.93	10.13
Finland Mkk	8.62	7.97
France Fr	9.57	8.92
Germany Dm	2.87	2.65
Greece Dr	446	420
Hong Kong $	13.14	12.14
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00
Israel Shk	5.72	5.07
Italy Lira	2877	2677
Japan Yen	213.20	197.20
Malta	0.655	0.600
Netherlds Gld	3.203	2.973
New Zealand $	2.47	2.25
Norway Kr	11.35	10.55
Portugal Esc	284.00	265.50
S Africa Rd	7.73	6.93
Spain Pta	241.50	224.50
Sweden Kr	13.12	12.12
Switzerland Fr	2.48	2.30
Turkey Lira	212000	198000
USA $	1.713	1.583

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Japanese prosecutors raid Nomura offices

Investigators on their way to the offices of Nomura, which is suspected of passing on money to extortionists

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPANESE prosecutors raided Nomura Securities yesterday on suspicion that Japan's biggest stockbroker funnelled profits from illegal stock deals to extortionists.

The raid was carried out by a combined team from the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office and the Securities Exchange Surveillance Commission (SEC). Up to 150 officials were involved in raids on Nomura's Tokyo head office and ten other buildings.

Prosecutors have questioned two Nomura managing directors for allegedly giving preferential treatment to a *sokaiya*, a type of racketeer who specialises in extorting cash from firms by threatening to reveal their dubious practices.

Investigators are focusing on transactions in March 1995, when the two executives allegedly passed on 38 million yen (£190,000) in profits from stock deals to a property firm owned by the brother of a prominent *sokaiya*.

The Securities and Exchange Law banned stockbrokers from conducting discretionary stock transactions after a 1991 scandal.

Investigators also searched the homes of Hideo Sakamaki, the company's former president, and Masashi Suzuki, his successor. Mr Sakamaki resigned as president on March 14.

Major praise for British motor industry as Rover cuts losses

BY OLIVER AUGUST

ROVER, the German-owned auto manufacturer, incurred losses of DM279 million last year, compared to DM335 million in 1995, BMW, its parent company, reported yesterday. But John Major, nevertheless, praised the success of the British motor industry during a visit to the West Midlands.

BMW, which bought Rover *in 1994, is pumping billions of* marks into the company in the hope of seeing it turn a profit by 2000. In 1996 BMW invested DM1.2 billion in Rover and plans another DM1.5 billion of investment this year.

Rover's sales rose to DM15.2 billion from DM13 billion, BMW said.

The German motor company also co-operates with *Rolls-Royce to build jet en*gines for small aircraft. BMW Rolls-Royce, the joint venture, reduced pre-tax losses before exceptionals by DM25 million to DM627 million, while sales rose to DM217 million from DM112 million.

Bernd Pischetsrieder, BMW chairman, said the joint venture will continue its development work on the BR700 *engines while increasing pro*duction facilities.

Despite its foreign ownership, Mr Major used the example of Rover to show that in the last 20 years there had been an "absolute revolution" in the British motor industry.

The Prime Minister said: "In the 1970s the British motor car industry was a basket case ... people thought the motor *industry was dead. Today it is* a thriving, growing, successful industry with massive exports. It's a huge success story because we changed the trade union legislation and the tax structure, and because we've improved industrial relations.

"People round the world can see that this is one of the best countries to invest in, and there's been a huge amount of it coming in from abroad. We need to protect that."

Mr Major said Rover could be badly hit if Britain takes the wrong decision on monetary union. If Britain does not join because the euro turns out to be a weak currency, then the sterling exchange rate could be forced up. He said: "Would that matter? Well go down the road to Rover and ask them if they would sell their cars if they had an artificially high rate of sterling."

BZW lost £11.5m on hedged position

BY ROBERT MILLER
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays, made a loss of £11.5 million in July 1996 after a hedged trading position in the volatile foreign exchange markets went wrong. BZW is understood to have used the bank's own funds.

Two members of BZW's derivatives department, Paul Ellis and Paul Doust, left by mutual consent shortly after the incident. City observers were quick to draw comparisons with NatWest's £90 million "black hole", which came to light last month.

Peter Baillie, BZW spokesman, said: "Senior management in BZW's market division and its independent risk management function took action to hedge a trading position which had been adversely affected by an unanticipated and rapid movement in the currency markets. Management had been fully aware of the position and acted within minutes ... to reduce the position risk."

Pennington, page 29

BUSINESS [illegible]

Takeover bid likely at Country Casuals

MARK BUNCE, chief executive of Country Casuals, may launch a takeover bid for the troubled clothing retailer, the company revealed yesterday. It is the second time in little more than a year that Country Casuals has been the target of a takeover bid from one of its founding directors. The company beat off an offer of £26.8 million from John Shannon, a former chief executive of the company, at the end of 1995. Mr Bunce and his wife Christina, who is commercial director, are the largest single shareholders in the company with a 10 per cent stake. They are believed to be talking to financial backers with a bid expected in excess of the 140p offered by Mr Shannon. Mr Bunce also holds a 5.9 per cent stake, currently valued at £12 million, in Oasis, which the management team at Country Casuals helped to rescue from receivership.

Shares in Country Casuals rose 7½p to 102½p. The shares have slumped in the past six months after two profit warnings. Country Casuals said it would continue with its plans to sell the loss-making Elvi out-size fashion chain and the Lerose clothes-making business, which were put on the market earlier this year. Mr Bunce and his wife will not take part in the evaluation of offers for the two businesses.

Scholl works on US link

SCHOLL, the footware and footcare company, said yesterday that it is forging closer links with Scholl's North American operations, which are owned by Schering-Plough, the US pharmaceuticals group. The company hopes for a formal alliance. Scholl reported a pre-tax profit before exceptional items of £20.6 million, on turnover of £212 milion, up 2.3 per cent, in the year to December 31. After a £35.7 million charge, the pre-tax loss was £15.1 million (£17 million profit). A 4.7p final dividend makes a 7.7p total, up 10 per cent.

Rea payout is held

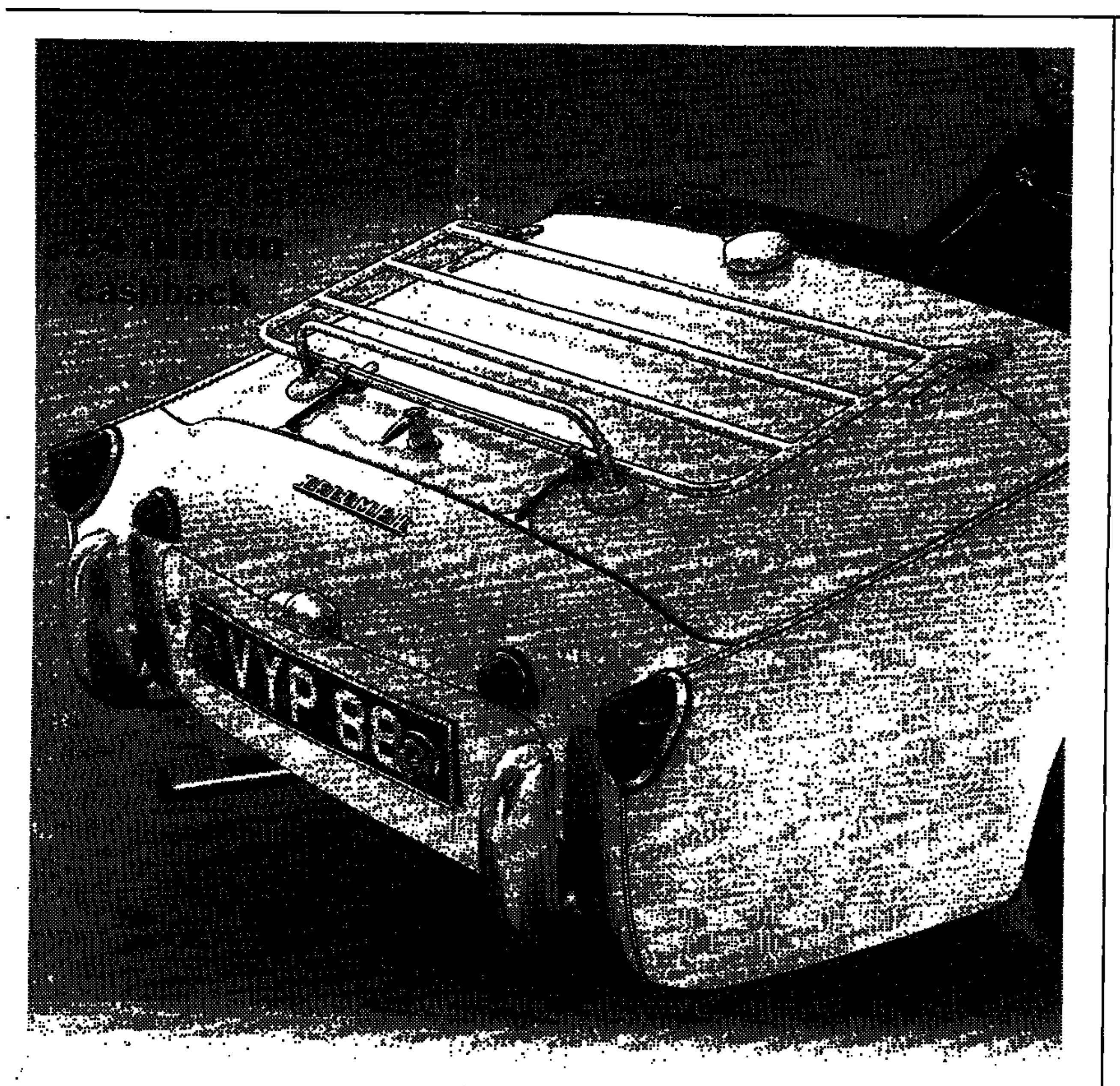
REA BROTHERS, the banking and financial services group, is holding its final dividend at 0.5p, due on May 9, to give an unchanged annual payout of 1p in spite of a 35 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £1.8 million. Sir Hugh Cubitt, chairman, said that funds under management rose to £948 million, from £706 million, in 1995 and that Finsbury Asset Management was now fully integrated with the group's investment management arm. Earnings per share rose to 2.50p, from 2.05p, although dealing profits fell to £413,000, from £607,000.

Pension warning

JOHN HAYES, chairman of the new statutory Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (Opra), yesterday published guidance for pension scheme actuaries and auditors on their "whistleblowing" duties when the 1995 Pensions Act takes effect on April 6. The new pensions watchdog gave warning that "apparently minor issues may be symptomatic of deeper problems" and he added that "dishonesty and deliberate disregard of the legislation remain a top priority for investigation and punishment by Opra".

IRG expects upturn

INDEPENDENT RADIO GROUP, the owner of six commercial radio stations, including Scot FM in Central Scotland and 1458 Lite AM in Manchester, said it expects to break even this year and make a profit in 1998. The company, which floated on the Alternative Investment Market in 1995, reported a pre-tax loss of £3 million in the 16 months to December 31, on turnover of £2.3 million. The loss before exceptional items was £1.4 million. Independent, which has £4.4 million in cash, intends to bid for several new radio licences this year.



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ROBECO N.V.
(investment company with a variable capital)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Friday, 25th April, 1997, at Concert and Congress building "de Doelen", entrance Kruisplein 30, Rotterdam, at 9.30 hours.

AGENDA

1. Opening
2. *To receive and adopt the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1996*
3. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1996
4. To determine the appropriation of the profit
5. To determine the remuneration of Supervisory Directors
6. To compose the Supervisory Board
7. Any other business

ROLINCO N.V.
(investment company with a variable capital)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Friday, 25th April, 1997, at Concert and Congress building "de Doelen", entrance Kruisplein 30, Rotterdam, at 11.45 hours.

AGENDA

1. Opening
2. To receive and adopt the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1996
3. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1996
4. To determine the appropriation of the profit
5. To determine the remuneration of Supervisory Directors
6. To compose the Supervisory Board
7. Any other business

Copies of the full agendas and of the Annual Reports for 1996 can be obtained from National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o Natwest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR or Robeco U.K. Limited, 4 Carlos Place, Mayfair, London W1Y 5AE. Telephone: 0171-409 3507.

Holders of Bearer Share Certificates desirous of attending or being represented at the Meeting, should lodge their Certificates by hand (postal deliveries will not be accepted for voting purposes) with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o Natwest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR (between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) in exchange for a receipt, not later than Friday, 18th April, 1997.

Beneficial owners whose Bearer Share Certificates are presently deposited with a Bank must obtain a Certificate of Deposit signed by the Bank as evidence that such Bank is holding the Share Certificates. The Certificate of Deposit must be lodged against receipt, by that Bank, with the National Westminster Bank PLC, in accordance with the requirements stated above.

The receipt for *Bearer Share Certificates* or Certificate of Deposit will constitute evidence of a shareholder's entitlement to attend and vote at the Meeting and should be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall. If a holder desires to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member of the Company, to attend and vote in his stead, a form of proxy may be obtained from the National Westminster Bank PLC as above and this form of proxy must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt for the Bearer Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-share Certificates registered in the name of National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited desirous of attending or being represented at the Meeting must obtain a receipt or Certificate of Deposit in the same way as holders of Bearer Share Certificates. If they desire to attend the Meeting in person or to be represented they must obtain a form of proxy signed by National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited, which form must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt exchanged for the Sub-share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-shares registered in any name other than that of National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited, holders of Registered Full Shares and Shareholders who maintain a Shareholder's Account with the Company wishing to attend and vote at the Meeting or to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in their stead, must signify their intention in writing to the Secretary of Robeco N.V. or Rolinco N.V. (whichever is applicable), Coolsingel 120, NL-3011 AG Rotterdam, Netherlands to arrive not later than Friday, 18th April, 1997.

Service contracts are not entered into with the Directors, who hold office in accordance with the Articles of Association.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT
ROTTERDAM
Dated this 26th day of March, 1997.

RORENTO N.V.
(registered in Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles)

INFORMATIVE MEETING FOR SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Friday, 25th April, 1997, at Concert and Congress building "de Doelen", entrance Kruisplein 30, Rotterdam, at 14.30 hours.

AGENDA

1. Opening
2. To discuss the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1996
3. To discuss the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1996
4. To discuss the appropriation of the profit
5. To discuss the remuneration of Supervisory Directors
6. To discuss the composition of the Supervisory Board
7. To discuss the composition of the Management Board
8. To discuss a proposal to alter the Articles of Association
9. Any other business

RORENTO N.V.
(registered in Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Monday, 28th April, 1997, at the offices of Robeco Antillen N.V., Kaya Wilson Papa Godett 24, Willemstad, Curaçao (Netherlands Antilles), at 10.30 hours.

AGENDA

1. Opening
2. To receive and adopt the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1996
3. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1996
4. To determine the appropriation of the profit
5. To determine the remuneration of Supervisory Directors
6. To compose the Supervisory Board
7. To compose the Management Board
8. To receive and adopt a proposal to alter the Articles of Association
9. Any other business

Holders of Bearer Share Certificates desirous of attending or being represented at the above stated Meetings, should lodge their Share Certificates by hand (postal deliveries will not be accepted) with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o Natwest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR (between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) as follows: INFORMATIVE MEETING - NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY, 18TH APRIL, 1997. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - NOT LATER THAN MONDAY, 21ST APRIL, 1997, IN EXCHANGE FOR A RECEIPT.

Beneficial owners whose Bearer Share Certificates are presently deposited with a Bank must obtain a *Certificate of Deposit* signed by the Bank as evidence that such Bank is holding the Share Certificates. This Certificate must be lodged against receipt, by that Bank, with the National Westminster Bank PLC, in accordance with the requirements stated above.

The receipt for the Share Certificates or Certificate of *Deposit* will constitute evidence of a shareholder's entitlement to attend and vote at the Meeting and should be presen [illegible] at the door of the Meeting Hall. If a holder desires to appoint a proxy, w [illegible] need not be a member of the Company, to attend and vote in his stead, a form of proxy may be obtained from the National Westminster Bank PLC as above and this form of proxy must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt for the Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Shareholders who maintain a Shareholder's Account with the Company, wishing to attend either or both Meetings or to appoint a proxy in their stead, must signify their intention in writing to the Secretary, Rorento N.V. c/o Avirento B.V., Coolsingel 120, NL-3011 AG Rotterdam, Netherlands to arrive not later than the dates indicated above.

Although proxies may attend, votes will not be cast at the Informative Meeting.

Copies of the full agendas and of the Annual Report for 1996 can be obtained from National Westminster Bank PLC at the address shown above or Robeco U.K. Limited, 4 Carlos Place, Mayfair, London W1Y 5AE. Tel: 0171-409 3507.

Service contracts are not entered into with the Directors, who hold office in accordance with the Articles of Association.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT
PHILIPSBURG
Dated this 26th day of March 1997.

هكذا من الاعلى

☐ Complex numbers behind Scottish Amicable deal ☐ National Savings that don't add up ☐ BZW drops a clanger

Secretive to the end

☐ HERE they come — dragged stumbling into the spotlight, blinking behind their horn-rimmed glasses — that largely unknown bunch of Scottish accountants, and secretive to the last. When Scottish Amicable first revealed plans to go public, the trouble was that no one, not even hardened insurance analysts, could understand them.

To ordinary members, the with-profit policyholders, not up with embedded values, reversionary bonuses and all the rest, the document outlining those proposals was gibberish, so it was as well that document became history even as it was printing, as a bidding war broke out for the business. The Prudential has now emerged from a three-sided scrap with the prize. Just why, we do not yet know, and this is important.

The curious thing about reputations in insurance is that they lag behind events. The Pru's is still badly tarred by the mis-selling scandal, even if a repetition of such abysmal behaviour seems unthinkable. The appeal of ScotAm, with a respectable name that does not yet reflect years of relative underperformance against the competition, is obvious.

As we all become more sophisticated, we take advice about financial products and pay for it rather than go automatically to the heavy advertisers. Hence the growth of independent financial advisers who take a cut for pointing us towards the right policy. Such IFAs are about as likely to pass a Pru policy across the table as they are a not-too-recently deceased cat, but ScotAm still, rightly or wrongly, has a bit of cachet.

As ever in a takeover deal, the buyer must emphasise how little is being paid and the seller how much. The awful complexity of this one makes this tightrope walk easier. The Pru is handing over £850 million clean, £600 million in cash and the rest as a special bonus added to the value of existing policies. There is a £1.3 billion loan to the ScotAm's life fund, at the normal commercial rate. This more than balances the exit of the fund's £500 million surplus, which comes out as payments to policyholders at the end of their policies.

The board at ScotAm are doing rather well, it seems. Under the Pru's original plans, and perhaps with AMP as well, they would have walked the plank. As it is they are even included in an incentives scheme for Pru executives sufficiently generous to attract criticism last year, wrongly perhaps, from the institutions.

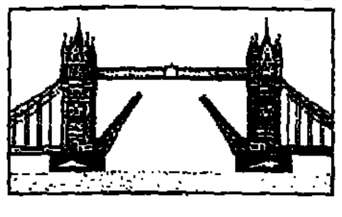
Such a cosy outcome should have ScotAm voters looking very seriously before the June vote at the terms from AMP and the Abbey National turned down in favour of the Pru. These, we are told, are not quite ready for publication yet.

Hmm. There was an air yesterday of a deal already done, one of those takeover bids already with the blessing of 50 per cent-plus of shareholders' votes. Not so. ScotAm policyholders, you have a vote — use it.

Cornering rats at the PAC

☐ COMMITTEE rooms at the House of Commons are designed to maximise the discomfort of those lost souls appearing before MPs. The "witnesses", a term synonymous with defendant, huddle together like terrified rodents behind an undersized desk, while the MPs surround them in an imperious horseshoe.

PENNINGTON



It may be unhealthy, encouraging displays of chest-beating from politicians. But sometimes the situation justifies it, such as when the top brass at National Savings, the Government's savings arm, appeared before the Select Committee of Public Accounts.

Tens of millions of pounds were "misplaced" in various National Savings internal accounts, auditors found last year. A £50 million deficit topped the list of "black holes" — the phrase of the month, it seems.

Given the political sensitivity of National Savings — custodian of the nest eggs of millions of pensioners and other vulnerable groups, and all guaranteed by the Treasury — the MPs should have been in attack-dog mode. Yet they were strangely civil on the day, placated by an authoritative performance from Peter Bareau, the chief executive who arrived from the banking sector last year and is convincing in his efforts to clear up the mess left by his predecessors.

The MPs have since recovered some of their bite. The written report on the matter "deplores" the slackness in financial controls. With memorable understatement, they declare themselves "concerned at the lack of senior finance staff with appropriate accountancy qualifications". In other words, they couldn't add up.

Why would they need to? After all, by the end of 1995-96, National Savings was managing only a trifling £57 billion. It all points to a "lack of competence" on the part of those running the agency in the past, the committee concludes. Culture of incompetence, more like.

A shame that previous chief executives such as David Butler and John Patterson were not forced to huddle before MPs instead. Too late for that. Mr Butler, by the way, is now at the Princess Royal Trust for Carers. Nice to know the Establishment looks after its own.

When the big brains blunder

☐ HERE we go hunting black holes in the spring (again). There has been a story floating around the City for a week or more now that Someone, Somewhere has Blundered. One of the securities houses has taken a huge position and watched, horrified, the market going the wrong way, or so says the scuttlebutt in the low dives that traders frequent.

Let us therefore hope that the rumours referred to Barclays de Zoete Wedd, because nobody really enjoys these black hole stories, do they? BZW lost £11.5 million last summer after having to hedge against some unwise currency positions taken by a couple of big brains, now departed. The good news is there was no mispricing, unlike at the NatWest and its £90 million loss earlier this month. Even better, management were on to it, and someone up the chain could by some miracle follow what the big brains had been up to. Hey, you win some, you lose some.

Up to a point. It is true that there is a spectrum of loss between dropping £90 million on barely understood derivatives and £90 at the 3.30 at Kempton Park, and somewhere on that spectrum a normal trading loss turns into a black hole. In the current climate we are all too inclined to describe the former as the latter. But £11.5 million is an awful lot to lose in the course of normal share dealing.

It is, however, the nature of such options and derivatives that subsequent losses can be so huge as to be easily audible above the normal chatter and hum of a typical trading business.

Kindest cut of all

☐ A BREAKTHROUGH for the next Chancellor from the Royal Economic Society's annual conference, which paved the way for a massive but painless spending cut. Hard to believe as they walk through the door, but a third of all graduates are over-educated, it seems: even after six years in work, their jobs need mere O or A levels. So slice off the tail of less able students and you save a third of the higher education budget as well as a lot of personal frustration. Or not.

Chelsfield aims for hotel float

Chelsfield, the property group, plans to float off its hotel and leisure interests.

The group yesterday raised £62 million in a placing of 20 million shares at 317p to buy the London and New York Westbury hotels from Granada. It is buying the London hotel freehold from AMP for £30 million. It is expected to package the hotels with its Wentworth leisure business.

Chelsfield's net asset value rose 22 per cent last year, to 225.6p. Profits grew from £10.6 million to £14.4 million. The year's dividend rises 9 per cent, to 3p.

Hunting aim

Hunting, the defence group, has ruled out merger amid restructuring in European aerospace. Pre-tax 1996 profits fell to £6.8 million, from £31 million, after write-offs in the aviation unit. Profits before exceptionals were £44.4 million (£38.1 million). The annual dividend stays 6p.

Clansman off

Macfarlane Group (Clansman), the packaging company, had a 3.8 per cent fall in pre-tax profits, to £20.4 million, in 1996, after a slowdown in orders from whisky companies. Earnings per share fell 5.4 per cent, to 11.4p, but the dividend rises from 3.9p to 4.095p, with a final 2.625p.

Burn better

Burn Stewart Distillers sees signs that whisky's pricing environment is improving. Profits reached £1.8 million in the half year to December 31, up from a £900,000 loss. The interim dividend remains 1.7p.

Hodder up

Hodder Headline, the publisher, lifted pre-tax profits 16 per cent, to £6.6 million, in 1996. Earnings per share were 13.3p (13.1p). A final dividend of 4.5p (same) makes 6.5p (same).

Kier ahead

Kier, the construction company, saw pre-tax profit rise to £3 million, from £2.75 million, in the half year to December 31. Kier pays no interim dividend.

Insurer hit

Losses by its Irish National Insurance Company, now sold, halved 1996 pre-tax profits of New Ireland Holdings to Ir£5 million. A Ir13.89p final dividend makes Ir18.56 (Ir16.86p).

Tunnel fire may add £60m to P&O revenues

By Fraser Nelson

THE fire in the Channel Tunnel last November has left a profitable legacy for P&O, the shipping to property conglomerate, which could gain up to £60 million in extra revenue this year because of the disaster, according to analysts.

The company, whose cross-Channel freight business has been crippled since the opening of the Channel Tunnel, is expected to claw back some £40 million in cargo alone until the tunnel is given the all-clear by safety inspectors.

No lorry has been able to use the tunnel since the fire four months ago, and Eurotunnel's freight service is not due to reopen until May.

As P&O returned its 1996 results yesterday, analysts said that it was on course to take the lion's share of the £100 million revenue understood to be generated by Eurotunnel's freight business each year. As ferries can carry the capacity with minimal extra expenses, a substantial amount of the extra revenue will translate straight into profit.

However, analysts said that the boost was only a short-term honeymoon which will last until Eurotunnel's freight trains start again. One said: "P&O's ferries have a fighting chance of staying in profit: Eurotunnel doesn't."

Competition from the Channel Tunnel in the first 11 months of 1996 forced operating profits at P&O's ferry division down to £41 million (£74 million). Operating profits at its containers division fell to £30.3 million (£40.1 million). However, the company surprised the City by returning an increase in group profits for 1996, against the slump that was widely expected. Overall, pre-tax profits grew to £333 million (£320 million) and earnings to 40.1p (37.8p) a share. The dividend is frozen at 30.5p with a final 17p, due on June 10.

Its cruising division delivered the strongest growth. The conglomerate was also lifted by a £12.4 million profit from its disposals, and a 54 per cent rise in profits from property development to £38.8 million.

Lord Sterling, chairman, said the company had tackled its two problem areas head on: the container division, by putting it into a joint venture with Nedlloyd, and the ferries division, with a proposed merger with rival Stena.

Even if the merger is blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, he said, P&O would remain the dominant player in the channel ferry market.

He said: "We are the most powerful group with the best ships. There may be some blood on the carpet but in the end there would be one dominant ferry group." He added that it would be "extremely surprising" if the proposed merger were rejected. A decision is not expeted until after the election. P&O shares rose 9p to 634½p yesterday.

Tempus, page 30

Taylor Woodrow looks to Castle

ANDRE CAMARA

Colin Parsons, chairman, says confidence remains high

TAYLOR WOODROW, the housebuilding and construction group, has named John Castle, the former managing director of Marley, as the man to replace Tony Palmer as chief executive.

According to contemporary reports, Mr Castle left Marley in early 1993 after being passed over in favour of David Trapnell for the post of chief executive of the building materials group. Yesterday, however, Colin Parsons, Taylor Woodrow's executive chairman, said he had been told that Mr Castle left Marley because he did not want the job.

Mr Castle will take over from Mr Palmer, who is retiring in June after 43 years with the group.

Taylor Woodrow was reporting a 45 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £66.8 million, on sales little changed at £1.19 billion. The improvement was led by the housing arm, which increased profits 40 per cent to £32.8 million. Sales were strong in the UK, US and Canada, and house sales rose 24 per cent to 3,957.

Mr Parsons said the group had seen no sign of the election damaging confidence among purchasers. He added: "We are much more apprehensive about the effect of a rise in interest rates. Buyers are also concerned about seeing prices going up while they are trying to buy houses. It's a very uncomfortable feeling."

The group's construction arm remained the largest business, even though turnover fell 10 per cent to £562 million. However, Taylor Woodrow made a profit of only £100,000 from construction and again lost money in the UK market.

A final dividend of 2.75p is due on July 1. This will lift the total to 3.75p, up 25 per cent.

Mis-selling pledge from life insurer

By Gavin Lumsden

LONDON & Manchester, the life insurer and pensions company, has promised to resolve the 6,000 cases of personal pensions mis-selling within the next year.

Tom Pyne, group chief executive, made the pledge as the company reported its annual results, but he admitted that only 75 people had so far been compensated, even though £32 million had been set aside for the purpose.

Trustees of company schemes were "overwhelmed" by the requirements of the Pensions Act and had not provided information on former members, he said.

Earnings per share rose 1.25p to 37.85p. A 13.69p final will be paid on June 12, making 20.29p (18.7p).

SkyePharma sees $5bn drug sales

By Paul Durman

SKYEPHARMA, the drug company assembled by Ian Gowrie-Smith, Medeva's founder, claimed that its "black box" of drugs in development was expected to have sales of more than $5 billion.

Mr Gowrie-Smith said the level of sales expected by client companies had doubled since last year's purchase of Jago, the Swiss company that is an expert in controlling the release of active compounds in drugs.

Mr Gowrie-Smith said the $5 billion estimate was not a "blue sky" forecast, but was conservatively based, taking account of the probability of success of the 11 projects in Jago's black box. Most of these involve improving existing drugs, and consequently carry less risk than developing totally new products. However, the first of these sales will not be made before next year, and will not accelerate until 1999.

SkyePharma yesterday revealed the second of the black box projects. Jago is working with Intercardia of the US to develop a once-daily formulation of a beta-blocker intended to be used to treat congestive heart failure. SkyePharma said the drug could have annual sales of $400 million.

The other Jago project announced is an asthma drug being developed by Abbott Laboratories of the US.

SkyePharma also reported losses of £11.7 million for the 17 months to December 31. Comparisons with 1995, when the company lost £9.8 million, are obscured by the series of deals that have transformed the group from its origins as Black & Edgington, the marquee tent company. SkyePharma ended 1996 with net cash of £19.3 million.

Bell paid £544,000 at Chime

By Jason Nissé

SIR Tim Bell, who advises the Conservative Party on its election strategy, was paid £544,000 last year as chairman of Chime Communications, the quoted PR group. His remuneration package is in addition to £90,000 of dividends paid on his 10.1 per cent stake in the group.

Chime's operating profits rose a fifth to £3.04 million in the year ended December 31. Pre-tax profits climbed to £3.72 million (£2.5 million). Earnings per share rose from 2.8p to 3.4p and a 1.15p dividend, payable on June 26, makes 1.7p, up 20 per cent.

Chime is looking to make a substantial acquisition of "another well known communications brand".

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Hamleys hopes for film boost

By Sarah Cunningham

HAMLEYS, the toy retailer, is putting its faith in *Star Wars* to revive the toy market this year. Howard Dyer, chairman, said that Hamleys, in just two days last week, sold out of the *Star Wars* version of the Monopoly board game, launched to coincide with the re-release of the 20-year-old film. It sold 332 in all and took orders for when more arrive.

Mr Dyer believes that this bodes well for other *Star Wars* goods starting to appear in its Regent Street store and in its smaller outlets and airport shops.

Monopoly's manufacturer, Waddington Games, part of America's Hasbro, said that the new version of the game has now sold out all over the country. The bad news for those who have put in orders for the game — which has Dagobah Swamp in place of the Old Kent Road and the Imperial Palace in place of Mayfair — is that no more will be available here until Christmas.

Mr Dyer confirmed that the toy market in the second half of last year, including the usually frantic Christmas period, was strangely flat. He said: "Two companies outperformed the market. We did marginally and Woolworths did very well." The fact that many retailers quickly sold out of the Christmas favourite, Buzz Lightyear, and could not restock did not help sales figures, he said.

The end result for Hamleys in the year to February 1 was a 5 per cent rise in like-for-like sales and a rise in pre-tax profit to £6.9 million, from £6.38 million. Earnings per share rose from 19.3p to 19.9p. A final dividend of 6p (5.4p), due on June 5, makes a full-year payout of 9p (8.1p).

Trade this year should be aided by the opening of up to 50 House of Toys concessions in Debenhams. The concessions in House of Fraser stores are being closed. Hamleys is to seek more sites in Europe and the Far East in the second half.

STOCK MARKET | MICHAEL CLARK

Share prices bounce back to end six-day run of falls

SHARE prices shrugged off the prospect of an imminent rise in US interest rates and bounced back, ending a run of six consecutive days of falls.

Cheered by the overnight strength of Wall Street that saw the Dow Jones industrial average climb 100 points, the FTSE-100 index raced ahead to close just below its best of the day with a leap of 55.9 points to 4,270.7.

Brokers now seemed resigned to the idea that US interest rates will rise a quarter point and say that most of this has already been factored into the price.

Short covering was also evident after the recent falls, which have also been generated by political uncertainty in the run-up to the general election on May 1. By the close of business, a total of 971 million shares had changed hands.

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, left, and Andrew Buxton, chairman, saw the share price rise

Interest-rate sensitive stocks such as the banks were back in fashion after a shaky few weeks. **Barclays Bank** closed 27p dearer at £10.16½ after recommendations from HSBC James Capel and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. Capel also likes **Lloyds TSB**, up 28½p at 482½p. **Abbey National**, 21p higher at 735½p, and **Bank of Scotland**, 6½p dearer at 320p.

Another burst of speculative buying carried **Commercial Union** sharply higher. The price closed below its best, but managed a rise of 31½p at 671½p as turnover reached 3.74 million. CU was linked before Christmas to **BAT Industries**, up 19p at 528p, but the talks are believed to have broken down.

Dalgety, up 11½p at 337½p, is now seen as a potential takeover target for **Associated British Foods**, 26p firmer at 559p. AB Foods has just sold its Irish retail interests to Tesco for £600 million plus.

There was the distinct waft of burnt fingers among the speculators after **Pilkington** issued a profits warning, blaming dull markets in Europe and the falling price of float glass. Brokers had been looking for pre-tax profits of £178 million, but now that figure is expected to be as low as £130 million. Further restructuring is now planned, which will stretch costs by a further £20 million a year over the next few years. The shares closed 7½p lower at 121p.

Further heavy turnover was recorded in **British Steel** as the price eased 3p to 158¾p. It follows the decision of Krupps to drop its bid for Thyssen and Pilkington's concern over weak European markets. By the close 54.8 million shares had traded. **Redland** with significant interests in Europe also fell 5½p to 351½p.

United News & Media rose 13p to 754½p as NatWest Securities, the broker, upgraded its recommendation from "hold" to "add". It says the group's broadcasting interests, which include Meridien and Anglia Television are undervalued.

Brokers gave the thumbs-up to better than expected full-year figures from **P&O** with the price adding 9p to 634½p.

The group is going ahead with plans to restructure the business, which will include a full demerger of its Bovis Homes business.

News of another bid approach lifted **Country Casuals**, the troubled womens' clothing retailer, 7½p to 102½p. Mark Bunce, chief executive, is in talks with the rest of the board with the view to making a formal offer. This is the second time in 18 months that the group has been on the receiving end of a bid from its own management. At the same time, Country Casuals says it is in talks with potential buyers for its Elvi and Lerose businesses.

Confirmation of a bid approach was also good news for **World of Leather**, up 8½p at 91½p. But the group said any offer was unlikely to be at at anything more than a modest premium to the current share price.

Biocompatibles touched £11 before ending 7½p dearer at £10.90 before figures today. Shire **Pharmaceuticals** was also 14½p better at 233p after it received US approval to market Carbatrol, its epilepsy treatment.

Shield Diagnostics continued to advance, adding 35p at 725p after a positive presentation in the City. The shares were hit last week after faults were discovered in US blood-clotting trials the group had joined only last year. Others to improve in the sector included **British Biotech**, 10p to 251½p, **Chiroscience**, 12½p to 370p, and **Scotia Holdings**, 40p to 419p.

On the AIM, **Polymasc Pharmaceuticals** rose 19p to 137½p after linking with **Oxford Molecular**, 8p dearer at 408p, to develop a blood growth factor to be used in the treatment of cancer, anaemia and Aids.

First-time dealings in **Cambridge Antibody** exceeded most expectations. The shares placed by Cazenove at 500p opened at 602p and touched a peak of 620p before closing at 615p, a premium of 115p.

A profits setback left **Graystone** nursing a fall of 14p at 100½p. Turnover was also down, but borrowings have risen.

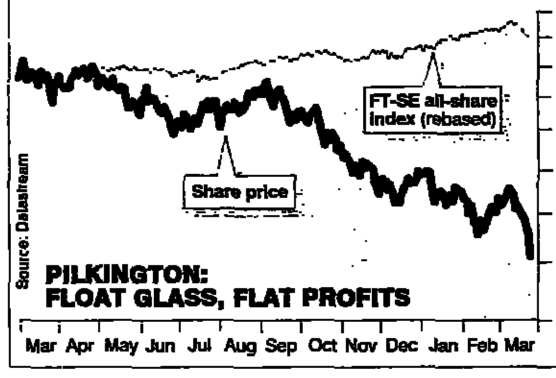
☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Prices recovered from a weak start to close better on the day supported by firmer overseas bond markets. Institutional investors were keeping a wary eye on the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee meeting that is expected to signal the first rise in US interest rates for 14 months.

This morning the Bank of England will be auctioning £2.5 billion of Treasury 7¼ per cent 2007. In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt put on seven ticks to close at £$109\frac{17}{32}$ in moderate trade that saw 50,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose £$\frac{5}{16}$ to £$102\frac{15}{16}$, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a couple of ticks firmer at £102½. Index-linked finished £⅛ lower.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Shares on Wall Street moved higher in morning trading as the market awaited the widely anticipated interest rate increase. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 22.28 points at 6,927.53.

Centrica, recently demerged from British Gas, has begun to attract support at last. The price rose 3½p to 62¼p yesterday with a little help from SBC Warburg. Word has it that the broker has set a 90p target price for the shares. By the close of business, a total of 16.5 million shares had been traded.



PILKINGTON: FLOAT GLASS, FLAT PROFITS

Source: Datastream

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6927.53 (+22.28)
S&P Composite 795.01 (+4.12)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18439.61 (+395.79)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 12832.53 (+83.39)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 727.84 (+12.62)

Sydney:
AO 2403.4 (+1.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3349.14 (+27.30)

Singapore:
Straits 2099.95 (+5.55)

Brussels:
General 11720.00 (+124.47)

Paris:
CAC-40 2624.25 (+44.97)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 946.30 (+8.00)

London:
FT 30 2823.1 (+34.2)
FTSE 100 4270.7 (+55.9)
FTSE 250 4552.7 (+15.8)
FTSE 350 2109.4 (+23.4)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 2140.51 (+12.16)
FTSE All-Share 2082.52 (+21.23)
FTSE Non Financials 2146.97 (+16.09)
FTSE Fixed Interest 117.65 (-0.04)
FTSE Govt Secs 94.00 (-0.11)
Bargains 68016
SEAQ Volume 971.7m
US$ 1.6183 (+0.0057)
German Mark 2.7365 (+0.0141)
Exchange Index 98.0 (+0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.3980
£:SDR 1.1675
RPI 155.0 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 154.5 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aurora Inv Trust	100	...
Birmingham City	43½	...
Cambridge Anti Tch	610	...
Cambridge Mini Res	14	...
Charlton Athletic	64½	...
Core Group	298	...
Diagonal	307½	- 2½
Dobbies Grdn Ctrs	260	...
Donatantonio	71½	...
Energy Group (525)	471½	+ 5
Girovend Csh Sys	188½	...
Heal's	210½	+ 5
Helphire Group	126½	...
KBC Advncd Techs	240½	- 2½
London Bridge Sftw	262½	- 1
M & G High Capital	9	...
M & G High Income	68½	...
M & G High Pckg	102½	...
M & G High Unit	80	...
PSD Group	258½	- 2
Pathfinder Properties	17½	...
Prestbury Leisure	2½	...
Q Group	119½	...
River & Merc 1st UK	98	...
Screen	5¼	...
Total Office Grp	153½	...
Usher of Trowbridge	120½	...
VFG	41½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cliveden n/p (75)	7½	...
Grantchstr n/p (137)	33½	- 1
JKX Oil Gas n/p (34)	12	...
PTS n/p (100)	12½	...
Partco n/p (300)	32½	...
Saville Gordon n/p (55)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Scotia 419p (+40p)
Shire Pharms 233p (+14½p)
Andrew Sykes 530p (+30p)
SIG 312½p (+18p)
British Biotech 251½p (+10p)
Shield Diag 725p (+35p)
Assoc Brit Foods 559p (+26p)
Bostrom 270p (+12½p)

FALLS:
Graystone 100½p (-14p)
Vero 161½p (-16p)
Meristem 74p (-15½p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Draught in the glass house

PILKINGTON is the British Steel of the building materials sector — a good company struggling in an appalling market. The share price sagged again yesterday; last year's price increases failed to stick despite two attempts, and since January the price of float glass has fallen another 10 per cent.

What is Pilkington to do? Another crushing round of redundancies — this time in Germany — is the only answer. Like steel, this is an industry with too much capacity and, worse still, it is possible to obtain European grants to build a double glazing plant. Without shrinking, Pilkington's meagre 5 per cent margins might disappear, so the company will cut both production and manning at a cost of £20 million per year.

On current estimates, Pilkington's return on investment is only just meeting its cost of capital. Shrinking the assets further will make the returns look more impressive, but this is window dressing, however painful. Pilkington's fortunes will not improve until the European glass industry becomes efficient. The company is in thrall to the car manufacturers and cannot abandon unprofitable business for fear of losing a customer.

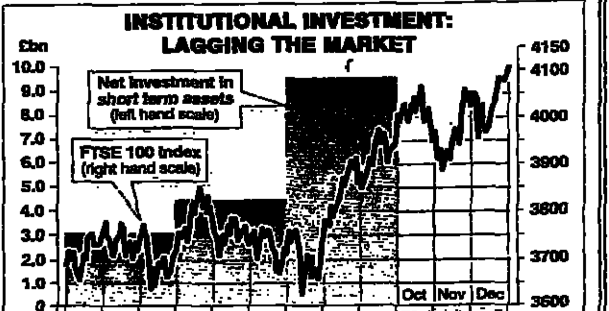
Investors stand to gain little from Pilkington in the short term. Every percentage drop in the share price brings forth the usual stories of bids, but logic suggests nothing is in the offing. In Europe, competition rules will prevent a rival from bidding, and who else would risk their money in this market? The fashion for focus should keep today's conglomerates at bay. Investors will have to hope that Pilkington gives away some of its cash. If it does not, they should sell.

Institutional investment

A CHARITABLE view of City fund managers is that they were on holiday when the stock market surged in August last year. Whatever the excuse, it would be true to say that fund managers were either selling or napping when the FT-SE 100 index began to climb after a half year moving sideways. Since the beginning of 1996, the funds had been building up cash positions; net investment in short-term assets was £3 billion in the first quarter of last year and rose to £4.5 billion in the three months to June.

The trouble is that they continued to pile money into short-term deposits when the FT-SE 100 was picking up a head of steam. Net investment in cash reached a heady £9.6 billion in the period from July to September compared with £0.5 billion in shares, despite a rise in the index of 7 per cent.

If the institutions were not buyers, what propelled the market? The likely answer is foreigners. About this time, sterling began to climb sharply against the mark and European funds, sensing the strength of the UK economy, piled their money into sterling investments. Unfortunately, our domestic money managers were less quick on the uptake or, perhaps, more cynical about the economy. Nevertheless, they started to buy shares in the fourth quarter, just in time to catch the fall-out from the base rate rise in October.



INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENT: LAGGING THE MARKET

Source: Datastream

P&O

P&O is now beating City expectations, rather than disappointing, as was the practice in the recent past. Profits came out ahead, rather than flat, for the year but the company still has a steep hill to climb, evidenced by the collapse in profits from containers in the second half.

A joint venture with Nedlloyd should make big improvements in container margins. Combining the two container operations should reduce costs by $200 million, producing a benefit to P&O of some £60 million by 1998. There are two caveats: timing and container rates.

P&O said the cost reductions are well advanced but rates are not under the partners' control. Ironically, it was Nedlloyd that caused the collapse in second-half profits; P&O's new partner cut its prices in search for volume just ahead of the merger. Even the market share of the combined business will not be enough to affect rates.

Elsewhere, P&O still needs to prune: Bovis Homes will hit the market in the Autumn, but P&O is still weighed down by commercial property. A total return, including income, of less than 10 per cent from bricks and mortar is unimpressive and looks all the more paltry compared with the 16 per cent return from the cruise ships. If there are buyers for P&O's properties, the company should sell.

Scotia

A GOOD rule of thumb for biotech investors is to buy after a setback. Those who followed the advice made a killing from British Biotech, Celltech, Cortecs International and, most spectacularly, Cantab Pharmaceuticals.

Now is the time to cast an eye over Scotia Holdings, another big player in the sector. Scotia's shares, above 700p last month, fell to 400p when UK regulators refused to approve Tarabetic, a treatment for the nerve damage that often accompanies diabetes.

Scotia can wheel out a battery of diabetes experts to back its claims for Tarabetic. And yesterday it gave a highly impressive presentation on Foscan, the light-activated cancer drug that is its most important project.

Nervousness about Scotia has always centred on its focus on the fatty-based molecules called lipids and on its unconventional management style. Therefore, it is reassuring to hear that a reorganisation will concentrate resources on four areas and cease work on arthritis, women's healthcare and the cardiovascular field. Scotia accepts that it still needs to raise a lot more money.

Buying in managers from big drug companies gives some further reassurance, but at 419p Scotia remains one for the speculators.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	1005-1003	May	1058-1056
May	1016-1015	Jul	1071 SLR
Jul	1026-1027	Sep	1080 BID
Sep	1035-1032	Dec	1090 BID
Dec	1029-1028		
Mar	1047-1046		Volume 3310

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1557-1553	Nov	1570 SLR
May	1566-1567	Jan	1567 SLR
Jul	1584-1577	Mar	1552 SLR
Sep	1590 SLR		Volume 5260

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	302.7-01.7
Spot 309.9		Mar	302.4-01.7
May	307.4-07.2	May	303.2 SLR
Aug	307.2-06.7	Jul	unq
Oct	303.6-02.7		Volume 1102

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 24

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	91.93	142.10	99.74
(+/-)	-2.22	-0.01	-3.41
Eng/Wales:	82.15	140.87	96.55
(+/-)	-2.27	-3.54	-3.12
(%)	-3.0	[illegible]	+16.0
Scotland:	77.31	138.00	98.50
(+/-)	+0.19	-7.06	-0.02
(%)	+9.0	-12.0	+3.1

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.90	(n/c)
Brent 15 day (May)	19.70	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Jun)	19.75	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (May)	21.20	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	21.20	-0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	211 (n/c)	213 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	175 (+2)	176 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	81 (-1)	83 (-1)
Naphtha	191 (+1)	196 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	172.25-72.50	Jul	175.50 SLR
May	173.25-73.50	Aug	177.25-77.50
Jun	174.25-74.50		Vol: 19460

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	19.69-19.71	Aug	19.76 BID
Jun	19.77-19.80	Sep	19.72 BID
Jul	19.78 BID		Vol: 31077

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	101.70	May	93.00
Jul	104.00	Sep	92.75
Sep	95.50	Nov	94.75
Nov	97.50	Jan	96.75
Jan	99.50	Mar	98.75
	Volume 106		Volume 68

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	40.0	41.00
May	48.0	49.00
Jun	unq	68.00
		Volume: 47

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Apr 79.75-80.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 97	1585	1570	1590
May 97	1575	1546	1550
Jul 97	1320	1300	1305
Oct 97	1415	1410	1415
Vol: 110 lots		Open Interest: 3271	

Index 1524 -2

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol.
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2419.0-2420.0	2364.0-2365.0	105925
Lead ($/tonne)	681.00-682.00	678.00-678.50	16100
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1265.5-1266.5	1287.5-1288.0	61475
Tin ($/tonne)	5795.0-5795.0	5835.0-5840.0	19505
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1611.5-1612.0	1645.0-1645.5	200675
Nickel ($/tonne)	7610.0-7620.0	7700.0-7705.0	70560

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	420	29½	36½	44	2	13	17
(*445½)	460	5	15½	25	19	34	39
ASDA	100	10	13	14½	0	2	4
(*109½)	110	3	7	9	3	5	8½
Boots	650	27	36	44	2	23½	29½
(*661½)	700	2	12	21½	39	54	60
Br Airways	600	44	56	67	1	13½	19½
(*643)	650	10	26	39½	17	36	42
BP	650	52	68	75½	1	11½	19
(*699½)	700	15	37½	47	13½	31	39½
Br Steel	140	19½	22	22½	0	4	5½
(*158)	160	3½	8	10½	4½	13	15
C & W	460	31	45	54	5	15½	21
(*487½)	500	8	24½	33½	19	35½	41
CU	650	23	62	70	10	36	50½
(*667½)	700	12	43	52	39	63	57½
ICI	650	52	69	77	1	9	16
(*699½)	700	15½	38½	45	13½	27	36½
Land Sec	750	22	35½	42½	6	23	29
(*765)	800	2	12½	20	36	55½	59
M & S	460	12½	26	33	7½	21	23
(*468)	500	1	11	17	38½	42	49½
Nat West	650	41	64	72½	3½	16½	23
(*685½)	700	11	35½	46	22	38	51½
Safeway plc	350	11	37½	42	1½	8½	12
(*359)	360	9½	19	25	8	22	29½
Sainsbury	330	12	20	27	8	19½	18
(*336½)	360	1½	8½	14½	24½	34½	37
Shell	1050	29½	47	60½	22½	40½	52½
(*1060½)	1100	7	25½	38	60½	70	81½
Smkl Bch	950	36½	80	99	3	22½	32
(*989)	1000	24	50½	71	19½	43	54
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1700	81	136	174	16	51	71
(*1751½)	1800	31	84	120	68	102½	117½
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAT Ind	500	15	59	63	9½	10	20½
(*528½)	550	9	31	39	28	43	55
Vodafone	260	14½	25	31½	3½	12½	16
(*269½)	280	5	15½	22	14	22½	26½
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	460	29½	40	48	6	13½	17½
(*480½)	500	9½	19	28	25	35½	37½
Ladbroke	220	12½	19½	23½	5	8½	12
(*226)	240	4	10	14	16½	19½	22½
Utd Bisc	220	18½	26	29	4	7½	11½
(*233½)	240	7	15	18½	12	16½	21

March 25 1997 Tot: 53977 Call: 22085 Put: 31892 FTSE Call: 4962 Put: 4201
*Underlying security price.

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	500	16½	31	38	5½	19½	22
(*508½)	550	1	9	16½	41½	49½	52
Thames W	650	19½	42	46½	13	42½	44½
(*655)	700	1	22	26	49½	75	76½
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BTR	260	12½	19	24	9	12	16
(*261)	280	5	11	15½	21½	24	27½
Br Aero	1300	71	107	130½	24½	43½	53
(*1325)	1350	44	80½	104	46½	65½	75½
Br Telcm	420	37½	46½	49	4	15	17½
(*451)	460	12	22	25½	18	35	36
Cadbury	500	48	61	67	4	9	13½
(*540½)	550	16½	31	38½	21½	29½	33½
Guinness	500	16	26	34	19	24	26
(*505)	550	4	9	16	59	60	62
GEC	360	19½	27½	32	6½	17	20
(*369½)	390	5½	13	19½	22½	34½	37
Hanson	280	18½	26	29½	7	9	15½
(*290)	300	8½	15½	19	16½	19½	25
LASMO	240	14½	21½	27	11½	17	15½
(*243½)	260	6	13	18	24	26	27
LucasVarity	180	21	25½	29	3	7	9½
(*197½)	200	7½	14	17½	11	11	18
Pilkington	120	9½	12	—	5	9	—
(*121)	130	4½	7	—	11	16	—
Prudential	550	26	41	51	16½	25½	32½
(*556½)	600	9	21	30	47	54½	60½
Redland	350	28	33	39½	9	16	20
(*351½)	360	10½	17½	25	26	33	36
R-Royce	220	17	22	29	6	12	14
(*231)	240	7½	15	19	16	23	24½
Tesco	330	16	24	30	10½	15½	19½
(*339)	360	3½	11	17	31	33½	36
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4270)

	4150	4200	4250	4300	4350	4400
Calls						
Apr	142½	104½	71½	44	24	11½
May	193½	146	114	95	62½	42
Jun	214	180½	149½	121	96	72½
Jul	229	190	165	141	117	96½
Dec	—	300½	—	239	—	187½
Puts						
Apr	21	32	48½	71	103	141
May	51	65½	83½	104	133½	165½
Jun	73	88	106	127	155½	182
Jul	70	94	113½	136	166	197½
Dec	—	157	—	193	—	242

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Abby Nat	700	41½	66½	78	5	20	29
(*734½)	750	13½	39½	50½	25	42	53
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1000	32½	66½	85	14	31	51½
(*1016)	1050	10	43	61	40	90	77
Natl Pwr	450	27	—	—	3½	—	—
(*474)	500	3	20½	21	28½	41	55½
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	1050	41	77½	92	9	30	49
(*1079)	1100	16½	57½	65	37	54	73
HSBC	1500	44	102½	131	25	64	98
(*1517½)	1600	8½	58	85½	91	120½	142½
Reuter	600	23	45	59	11	27	28
(*609½)	650	5	25½	37	44	55	56
Royal & Sun	431	16	—	—	9	—	—
(*438½)	460	4	17	24	21	37	37
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Blue Circ	300	21½	31	37	11	17	23
(*305½)	330	7	17	23	30	34	31
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Kingfishr	650	43½	57½	66	16½	21	26½
(*692)	700	15½	31	42	36	44	50½
Series		Jun			Jun		
Br Gas	220	12½	—	—	15½	—	—
(*228)	240	4½	—	—	28½	—	—
Series		Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Dixons	500	19½	48	58	14½	26½	37
(*517½)	550	15	24½	35	41½	52	57½
EMI Group	1100	68	90	103	45	57	67
(*1117½)	1150	41	65	78	59½	92½	102
Tarmac	90	9	12	13	3	5½	6
(*97)	100	4	7	9½	9½	9	11½
Hillsdwn	180	12	13½	—	7	8	—
(*188½)	200	2½	5	—	21½	22	—
Lonrho	140	14½	18½	21	4	6½	8
(*151)	160	5	8½	12	14½	17	18½
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	21½	26½	29	6	12	14
(*272½)	280	10½	16	19½	14½	22	24½
Lloyds TSB	460	39	48½	56½	10½	16	21
(*482)	500	17½	28	38	29	32½	42½
Scot Pwr	330	19	24½	27½	12	19	21½
(*337½)	360	7	11½	14½	30	38½	40½
Unilever	1600	50½	86½	101	46½	59	68
(*1612½)	1700	16	46	60	116	122	129½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 97	110-02	110-02	109-27	109-27	6611
Previous open interest: 199076	Jun 97	109-17	109-21	109-09	109-17	50981
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 97	100.34	100.54	100.28	100.47	124116
Previous open interest: 240101	Sep 97	99.47	99.53	99.45	99.54	191
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 97	124.77	125.34	124.38	125.21	46053
Previous open interest: 109451	Sep 97	124.80	124.80	124.80	125.26	196
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	125.30	125.43	125.26	125.32	1293
	Sep 97	123.96	124.06	123.96	124.02	62
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 97	93.33	93.35	93.33	93.34	7922
	Sep 97	93.06	93.08	93.05	93.07	7046
Previous open interest: 426494	Dec 97	92.82	92.85	92.81	92.84	6672
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 97	96.69	96.69	96.67	96.69	19418
Previous open interest: 1197936	Sep 97	96.59	96.60	96.58	96.60	12152
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 97	92.70	92.75	92.59	92.70	28858
Previous open interest: 246634	Sep 97	93.02	93.03	92.89	93.00	14978
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97	99.15	99.15	99.15	99.15	100
	Dec 97	98.97	98.97	98.97	98.97	3100
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 97	98.15	98.19	98.15	98.16	4701
Previous open interest: 89471	Sep 97	98.13	98.15	98.12	98.13	3214
Three Mth ECU	Jun 97	95.69	95.72	95.69	95.72	1605
Previous open interest: 30443	Sep 97	95.63	95.65	95.62	95.65	494
FTSE 100	Jun 97	4244.0	4300.0	4240.0	4293.0	11767
Previous open interest: 60960	Sep 97				4317.0	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6¾
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5¾ Week fixed: 6
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6; 3 mth 6 Sell: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth: 5[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 6[illegible], close 5[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.52	n/a	5.63	5.78	6.12
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $350.40-350.70 Close: $348.95-349.35 High: $351.45-351.95
Low: $348.05-348.55 AM: $350.00-350.90 PM: $349.00-349.60

Krugerrand: $347.75-350.75 (£215.00-217.00)

Platinum: $374.75 (£231.20) Silver: $5.11 (£3.159) Palladium: $146.00 (£90.05)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 25	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0613-3.0793	3.0758-3.0793	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr
Brussels	56.180-56.552	56.453-56.552	16-11pr	44-37pr
Copenhagen	10.382-10.437	10.428-10.437	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.0250-1.0294	1.0281-1.0294	6-2pr	18-12pr
Frankfurt	2.7239-2.7386	2.7358-2.7386	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2pr
Lisbon	274.02-275.57	275.24-275.57	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	231.22-232.64	232.41-232.64	6-2pr	29-13pr
Milan	2728.1-2741.8	2738.9-2741.8	27-43ds	70-92ds
Montreal	2.2236-2.2323	2.2298-2.2330	0.66-0.61pr	1.23-1.15pr
New York	1.6160-1.6195	1.6185-1.6195	0.675-0.475pr	0.245-0.215pr
Oslo	10.785-10.838	10.796-10.806	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	9.1850-9.2331	9.2250-9.2331	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr	7-6[illegible]pr
Stockholm	12.349-12.412	12.392-12.412	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	199.25-200.68	200.48-200.68	1[illegible]-1pr	3-2[illegible]pr
Vienna	19.169-19.275	19.254-19.275	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Zurich	2.3525-2.3742	2.3719-2.3742	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr

Source: Extel
Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2792-1.2804
Austria	11.86-11.87
Belgium (Com)	34.78-34.82
Canada	1.3778-1.3783
Denmark	6.4296-6.4316
France	5.6877-5.6897
Germany	1.6869-1.6874
Hong Kong	7.7482-7.7492
Ireland	1.5745-1.5765
Italy	1689.00-1690.50
Japan	123.55-123.60
Malaysia	2.4770-2.4780
Netherlands	1.8971-1.8976
Norway	6.6606-6.6678
Portugal	169.80-169.90
Singapore	1.4407-1.4417
Spain	143.28-143.38
Sweden	7.6423-7.6497
Switzerland	1.4605-1.4615

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6189-1.6215
Australia dollar	2.0687-2.0713
Bahrain dinar	0.6030-0.6150
Brazil real*	1.7115-1.7159
China yuan	13.242-13.542
Cyprus pound	0.8110-0.8210
Finland markka	8.0825-8.1985
Greece drachma	426.0-433.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.5443-12.5537
India rupee	57.55-58.51
Indonesia rupiah	3841.0-3909.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4855-0.4955
Malaysia ringgit	4.0118-4.0159
New Zealand dollar	2.3279-2.3309
Pakistan rupee	64.30 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8200-5.9440
Singapore dollar	2.3324-2.3354
S Africa rand (com)	7.0980-7.2000
U A E dirham	5.8725-5.9965

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,500	Land Secs	670
ASDA Gp	11,900	Legal & Gn	7,900
Abbey Ntl	4,900	Lloyds TSB	15,300
Allied Dom	3,800	LucasVarity	3,100
AB Foods	2,700	Marks Spr	7,000
BAA	2,000	Mercury Asst	326
BAT Inds	13,600	NatWst Bk	7,500
BG	10,500	Nat Grid	2,300
BOC	2,700	Nat Power	2,300
BP	7,900	Next	1,800
BSkyB	3,300	Orange	2,500
BTR	9,400	P & O	4,200
BT	16,800	Pearson	885
Bk of Scot	4,300	PowerGen	1,800
Barclays	7,900	Prudential	6,900
Bass	3,000	RMC	505
Blue Circle	1,400	RTZ	1,900
Boots	2,000	Railtrack	4,000
BAe	2,300	Rank Group	3,600
BA	1,700	Reckitt Col	2,700
British Land	497	Reed Intl	1,200
Brit Steel	51,600	Rentokil	12,500
Burmah Cstl	1,200	Reuters	3,300
Burton	6,800	Rolls Royce	8,600
Cable Wire	4,300	Ryl & Sun	11,500
Cadbury	2,200	Royal Bk Sct	4,400
Carlton Cms	2,100	*Safeway*	6,300
Centrica	16,500	Sainsbury	5,600
Cm Union	3,700	Schroders	142
Dixons	1,100	Scot & New	1,700
EMI	1,100	Scot Power	3,100
Energy Gp	4,700	Svrn Trent	790
Enterpr Oil	2,500	Shell Trans	4,900
GKN	669	Siebe	1,800
GRE	5,900	SmKl Bch	3,400
GUS	1,100	Smith Nph	3,200
Gen Acc	956	Smiths Inds	453
Gen Elec	3,100	Std Chartd	3,000
Glaxo Well	5,200	TI Gp	950
Granada	2,402	*Tate & Lyle*	2,900
Grand Met	4,500	Tesco	5,600
Guinness	3,300	Thames W	2,000
HSBC	1,400	Tomkins	1,000
Hanson	2,700	Unilever	980
Hays	714	Utd Utilities	1,600
ICI	3,000	Utd News	2,600
Imp Tob	2,100	Vodafone	10,900
Kingfisher	1,100	Whitbread	1,200
LASMO	16,100	Wolseley	873
Ladbroke	2,500	Zeneca	1,400

WALL STREET

	Mar 25 midday	Mar 24 close
AMP Inc	35¼	35¼
AMR Corp	85¼	84¼
ASA	34¼	34½
AT & T	35½	35
Abbott Labs	59¾	59½
Advanced Micro	38¼	37¼
Aetna Life	88¼	87¼
Ahmanson (HF)	39¼	39¾
Air Prod & Chem	69	69¼
AirTouch Comm	24¼	24¼
Alberto-Culver B	27¼	27¼
Albertson's	35	35
Alcan Aluminum	36¼	36¼
Allied Signal	75¼	74¾
Alum Co of Am	71¼	72
Amax Gold Inc	7	6¼
Amerada Hess	54¼	54
Amer Brands	51½	51¼
Amer El Power	41¼	41¼
Amer Express	66¼	66¼
Amer Genl Corp	42¼	42¼
Amer Home Pr	65¼	64¼
Amer Intl	127¼	125¼
Amer Stores	44¼	44¼
Amer Standard	46¼	47
Ameritech	63¼	62¼
Amoco	89¼	90
Anheuser-Busch	44¼	44¼
Apple Computer	16¼	16¼
Archer Daniels	18¼	18
Armco	4¼	4¼
Armstrng Wrld	69¼	70¼
Asarco	30	30¼
Atl Richfield	133¼	133¼
Auto Data Pro	42¼	42¼
Avery Dennison	41¼	41¼
Avon Products	54¼	54¼
Baker Hughes	38¼	39
Baltim Gas & El	26¼	26¼
Banc One	44¼	44¼
BankAmerica	114¼	113¼
Bank of NY	40¼	40¼
Bankers Tr NY	90¼	91¼
Barnett Banks	50¼	50¼
Bausch & Lomb	38¼	38¼
Baxter Intl	46¼	45¼
Becton Dickinsn	46¼	46¼
Bell Atlantic	63¼	62¼
Bell Industries	18	18
BellSouth	44¼	44¼
Black & Decker	33¼	33¼
Block (H&R)	30	29¼
Boeing	106¼	105¼
Boise Cascade	32	32¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	66¼	66
Browning Ferris	29¼	29¼
Brunswick	29	28¼
Burlington Nthn	80¼	79¼
CMS Energy Corp	32¼	32¼
CNA Financial	110¼	110¼
CPC Intl	84¼	84¼
CSX	48¼	49
Campbell Soup	47¼	47¼
Can Pacific	24¼	24¼
Carolina Pwr	37	37
Caterpillar	80¼	80¼
Central & SW	22¼	22¼
Champion Intl	46¼	47
Chase Manhat	102¼	103¼
Chevron Corp	70¼	70¼
Chrysler	30¼	30¼
Chubb Corp	59¼	59
Cigna Corp	155¼	154¼
Citicorp	117¼	116¼
Clorox	119¼	119¼
Coastal Corp	47¼	46¼
Coca Cola	59¼	59¼
Coca Cola Ent	60¼	60
Colgate-Palm	108¼	108¼
Columbia Gas	60	60
ColumbiaHCA	37¼	37¼
Compaq Comp	79¼	79¼
Comp Ass Intl	39¼	39¼
Conagra	56¼	56¼
Conrail	113¼	113¼
Cons Edison	30¼	30¼
Cons Nat Gas	52¼	52¼
Cooper Inds	45	45¼
Corestates	52¼	52¼
Corning Inc	45¼	45¼
Crown Cork	54¼	54¼
Dana Corp	32¼	32¼
Dayton Hudson	43¼	42¼
Deere	44¼	44¼
Delta Air Lines	83¼	83¼
Deluxe Corp	32¼	32¼
Digital Equip	27¼	27¼
Dillard Dept St	32	32¼
Disney (Walt)	75	75
Dominion Res	37¼	37¼
Donelley (RR)	36¼	35¼
Dover Corp	54	53¼
Dow Chemical	83¼	83¼
Dow Jones	42¼	42¼
Dresser	31¼	31¼
Duke Power	44¼	44
Dun & Bradstreet	26¼	27
Du Pont	114¼	114¼
Eastman Chem	55¼	55
Eastman Kodak	77	76¼
Eaton Corp	73¼	73¼
Edison Intl	22¼	22¼
Elect Data Sys	41¼	41¼
Emerson Elec	50¼	50¼
Engelhard Corp	22¼	22¼
Enron Corp	40¼	40¼
Entergy	25¼	24¼
Ethyl Corp	8¼	8¼
Exxon	105¼	104¼
FMC Corp	64	63¼
FPL Group	45¼	45¼
Federal Express	57¼	57
First Bk Sys	78¼	78¼
First Union Rlty	13¼	13¼
Fleet Fnl Grp	60¼	61¼
Fluor Corp	53¼	54¼
Ford Motor	32¼	31¼
GTE Corp	47¼	47¼
Gannett	87	87¼
Gap Inc Del	35	34¼
Gencorp	19¼	19¼
Gen Dynamics	68¼	68¼
Gen Electric	105¼	105¼
Gen Mills	62¼	62¼
Gen Motors	57¼	57¼
Gen Reinsurance	166¼	166¼
Gen Signal	40¼	40¼
Genuine Parts	47¼	47¼
Georgia Pac	75¼	76¼
Gillette	76¼	77¼
Glaxo Wellc ADR	34¼	34¼
Goodrich (BF)	39¼	39
Goodyear Tire	55¼	55¼
Grt Atl Pac Tea	26¼	26¼
Great Wstn Fin	44¼	44¼
Halliburton	69¼	69¼
Harcourt General	46	46
Heinz (HJ)	41¼	41
Hercules	41¼	42
Hershey Foods	52¼	52¼
Hewlett Packard	56¼	56¼
Hilton Hotels	25¼	25¼
Home Depot	57	57¼
Homestake Mng	15¼	15¼
Honeywell	72¼	73
Household Intl	93¼	94
Houston Inds	21¼	21¼
Humana	21¼	21¼
ITT Corp	59¼	59¼
Ikon Office	34¼	35¼
Illinois Tool	90¼	90¼
Illinova	23	23
INCO	35¼	35¼
Ingersoll Rand	46¼	47¼
Inland Steel	20¼	20
Intel Corp	130¼	130¼
IBM	135¼	136¼
Intl Flav & Fr	44¼	44¼
Intl Paper	42	42¼
James River Va	31¼	32¼
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	58¼	57¼
Kellogg	69¼	69¼
Kerr-McGee	63¼	64
Kimberly-Clark	105	106¼
Kmart	12¼	12¼
Knight-Ridder	41¼	41¼
Lilly (Eli)	87¼	86¼
Limited Inc	19¼	19¼
Lincoln Nat	57¼	57¼
Litton	40¼	40¼
Liz Claiborne	45¼	45
Lockheed Martin	85¼	84¼
Louisiana Pac	21	21
MCI Comm	38¼	37¼
Manpower Inc	38¼	38¼
Marriott Int	51¼	51
Marsh & McLnn	121¼	120¼
Masco Corp	36¼	36¼
May Dept St	49¼	49¼
Maytag Corp	21¼	21¼
McDonalds	47¼	47¼
McDonnell D	66¼	65¼
McGraw Hill	50	50
Mead Corp	55¼	56¼
Medtronic	61¼	61¼
Mellon Bk	79¼	79¼
Merck Inc	90¼	89¼
Merrill Lynch	93¼	94¼
Microsoft	89¼	90¼
Minnesota Mine	89	88¼
Mobil Corp	134¼	135¼
Monsanto	39¼	39¼
Morgan (JP)	100¼	100¼
Motorola Inc	59¼	57¼
Natl Semi	26¼	26¼
Natl Service Ind	39¼	39¼
Navistar Int	9¼	9¼
NY Times A	40¼	40¼
Newmont Mng	41¼	41¼
Niag Mohawk	8¼	8¼
Nike B	65¼	64¼
NL Industries	10¼	10¼
Noram Energy	14¼	14¼
Nordstrom	38¼	38¼
Norfolk Sthrn	93¼	93¼
Nthn State Pwr	48¼	48¼
Norwest Corp	51	51¼
Nynex Corp	47¼	47
Occidental Pet	24¼	25
Ohio Edison	21¼	21¼
Oracle	40	39¼
Oryx Energy Co	19	19
Overseas Ship	17	17
Owens Corning	40¼	41
PITH Corp	48	48
PPG Industries	55¼	55¼
PNC Bank	43¼	43¼
PP&L Res	20¼	20¼
Paccar Inc	71¼	72¼
Pacificorp	21¼	20¼
Pac Enterprises	31	31¼
Pac Telesis	40¼	40¼
Pall Corp	22¼	22¼
Parker Hannifin	45¼	45¼
Peco Energy	20¼	20¼
Penney (JC)	49¼	49¼
Pennzoil	51¼	51¼
Pepsico	32¼	32¼
Pfizer	91¼	90¼
Pharm & Upjhn	38	38
Phelps Dodge	75¼	76
Philip Morris	117¼	115¼
Phillips Pet	41¼	41¼
Pitney Bowes	60¼	60
Polaroid	40¼	40¼
Procter & Gmbl	122¼	123¼
Providian	57¼	57¼
Pub Serv E & G	27¼	27¼
Quaker Oats	37¼	37¼
Ralston Purina	82¼	83
Raychem Corp	87¼	88
Raytheon	47¼	48
Reebok Intl	48	48
Reynolds Metals	63¼	64¼
Rockwell Intl	68¼	68¼
Rohm & Haas	74¼	75¼
Royal Dutch	175¼	174¼
Rubbermaid	24¼	24¼
SBC Comms	55¼	56¼
Safeco Corp	40¼	40¼
St Paul's Cos	70¼	69¼
Salomon Inc	55¼	55¼
Sara Lee Corp	41¼	42
Schering Plough	78	78¼
Schlumberger	107¼	110
Seagram	40¼	40¼
Sears Roebuck	53¼	53¼
Shell Trans	103¼	103¼
Sherwin Wlms	56¼	55¼
Skyline Corp	22¼	22¼
Snap-On-Tools	40¼	40¼
Southern Co	21¼	21¼
Sprint Corp	46¼	44¼
Stanley Works	39¼	39¼
Sun Company	27¼	27¼
Sun Microsys	28¼	28¼
Suntrust	52	52¼
Supervalu	30¼	30¼
Sysco Corp	34¼	34¼
TRW Inc	54¼	54¼
TCC Inds	1¼	1¼
Tandem Comp	11¼	11¼
Tandy Corp	51¼	52
Temple Inland	53¼	54¼
Tenneco	39¼	39¼
Texaco	106¼	106
Texas Inst	75¼	75¼
Texas Utilities	35¼	35
Textron	106¼	106¼
Time Warner	44¼	44¼
Times Mirror A	58¼	58
Timken	54¼	55
Torchmark	58¼	58¼
Toys R Us	29	29¼
Transamerica	91¼	92¼
Travelers	53¼	53¼
Tribune	41	40¼
Tyco Intl	58¼	58¼
UST Inc	29¼	30¼
UAL	66¼	65¼
US Inds	36¼	36¼
US West Comm	34¼	34¼
US West Media	19¼	19¼
USAirways Group	25¼	25
USX Marathon	27¼	28¼
Unicom	21	21
Unilever NV	190¼	188¼
Union Camp	48¼	48¼
Union Carbide	47	46¼
Union Pacific	60¼	60¼
Unisys Corp	6¼	6¼
USF&G Corp	22¼	22¼
US Life	47¼	47¼
United Tech	78¼	78¼
Unocal Corp	39¼	38¼
VF Corp	67¼	68
WMX Tech	30¼	30¼
Wal-Mart Stores	25¼	25¼
Warner-Lambert	92¼	89¼
Wells Fargo	304¼	306
Westinghouse El	18¼	18¼
Weyerhaeuser	47¼	48
Whirlpool	50¼	50¼
Whitman	24¼	24
Winn Dixie	34	33¼
Woolworth	23¼	23¼
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	60¼	60¼
Xerox	58¼	59
Yellow Corp	17	17

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Treasury loses a treasure

KENNETH CLARKE bade his farewells this week. After 19 years working for the Treasury, the housekeeper to the Chancellor is retiring.

Marie Collier, nicknamed "the lady under the stairs", has served Lord Lawson, John Major, and Norman Lamont during their stays at Downing Street.

The diminutive cockney sparrow will be greatly missed, not more so than by the Chancellor *himself*, who handed her a House of Commons head scarf at a drinks party to launch this year's Women Into Business Awards.

"Marie *is* the staff at Number 11," the Chancellor said. "Last year, she joined the club, and was *awarded an MBE*."

Patient party

MUCH excitement at the Securities and Investments Board, where Anthony Minghella's sister works as head of the enforcement, law and policy support department. Loretta Minghella, sibling to the Oscar-winning director of *The English Patient*, celebrated with SIB colleagues at a cinema on Monday night, before they made their way on to a party. For the record, Loretta's mother makes a cameo appearance in the movie which scooped a total of nine Oscars.

"Haven't you heard? P&O *is floating Bovis Homes*"

Grant's goodbye

SIR Alistair Grant waves goodbye to Safeway. His departure as chairman comes not long after he celebrated his 60th birthday at Claridge's. Sir James Blyth, Sir Peter Davies, Baron Briggs, Lord Gowrie and David Webster, Safeway's incoming chairman, were among the 130 guests who sat down to a special dinner. Proof that age is no barrier — Sir Alistair flies to Edinburgh tonight for a meeting in his latest capacity as non-executive chairman of Scottish & Newcastle.

Archer target

OVER breakfast at the Hyatt Carlton Tower last week, Stephen Wenman was made an offer he couldn't refuse. Dick Cole, chairman of Chartwell Re, which owns the Archer Group, stretched across the table and asked the founder and former chairman of Special Risk Services if he had considered the role of chief executive. Before the toast was cold, Wenman was asked to take up his new post *immediately*. He started work at Archer the next day.

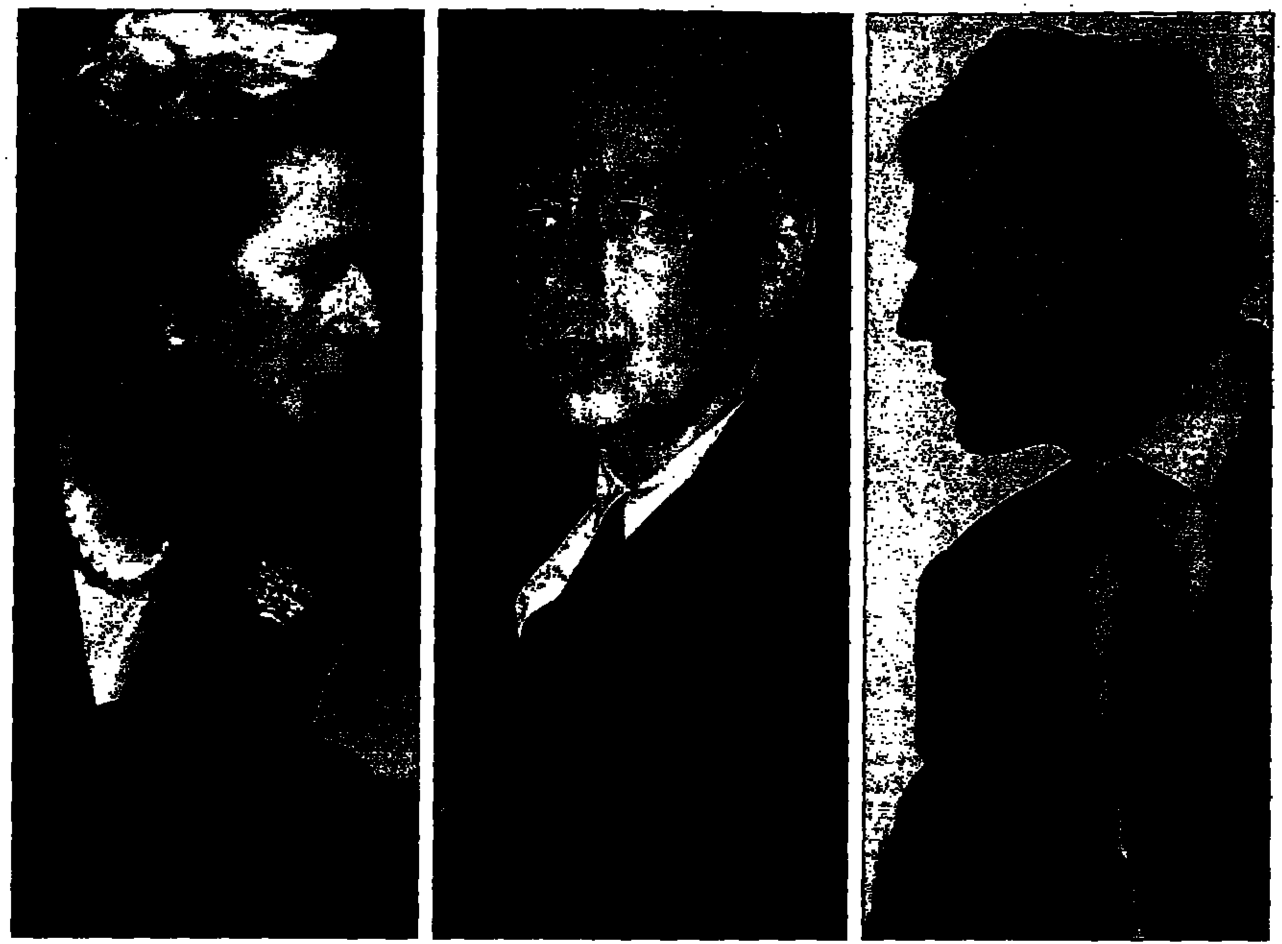
Party line

RUMOURS have been whizzing round that Sir Ernie Harrison, the chairman of Vodafone, has been handing out free mobile phones to the Tory party. This is true — well sort of. In the run-up to the election, Sir Ernie has lent a phone to Richard Benyon, the Conservative candidate in his constituency of Newbury. I am told that Benyon is paying for all his calls, but given the trouncing the Tories had last time they faced the voters of Berkshire, the man needs all the *help he can get*.

MORAG PRESTON

Return on the cards for ideas of Keynes, the prodigal son

Economists are taking a new look at the Conservative legacy, says Janet Bush



In the brave new world post-Margaret Thatcher, Keynesian fine-tuning is back, but will Gordon Brown respond?

It is becoming commonplace for economists to argue that the radical Conservative programme of supply side reform over the past 18 years has finally worked its magic and that the British economy can now grow faster, with lower unemployment and less inflation, than in the past.

Some take the argument even further and suggest that the transformation wrought by the Tory assault on trade union *militancy*, *reform of welfare* and taxes, deregulation and privatisation, have made the world safe for the return of that long-shunned prodigal — *Keynesian demand management*.

This is a breathtaking claim given the opprobrium heaped on the ideas of John Maynard Keynes since their unquestioned *dominance* was broken towards the end of the 1970s and it needs some qualification.

Few are talking about the large-scale pump priming of demand through government decisions on fiscal policy that formed a key part of Keynes's thinking in the 1920s and 1930s, when the great challenges facing the world economy were depression and mass unemployment and inflation was more or less unknown. There is still a firm consensus that demand management should largely be conducted through monetary policy and that budgets should, at least over the cycle as a whole, be aimed towards balance.

There is also no decisive break in the unanimity, which *continues to spread across the* globe as neo-liberal economics are exported to the developing world, that fighting inflation rather than pursuing full em*ployment is the prime aim of* macroeconomic policies. Instead, it is microeconomic or supply side policies that are touted as the main tool for *trying to cut unemployment*.

So it is that institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the OECD — not to mention our own Kenneth Clarke — *continue to* urge structural reform, as well as lower interest rates, on those continental European economies lumbered with abjectly *high levels of unemployment*. And, as we all know, new Labour is committed to a tough inflation target and the golden rule on public borrowing as its *macroeconomic framework* with a panoply of so-called active labour market measures and micro-adjustments to the tax and benefit systems de*signed to incentivise the work*force and lower unemployment. There is not much vintage Keynes on display here.

But although big picture Keynesianism is far from making a triumphal return, there *has* been a distinct shift in economic thinking in America and Britain. Even the ideologues at the IMF appear to be part of an emerging strand of new Keynesianism.

Some, albeit rather isolated, voices are even trying to rehabilitate fine-tuning through fiscal policy as opposed to the active use of interest rates that has become *established in* Britain and America. In a paper this month for the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and the Economic and Social Research Council, Simon Wren-Lewis, Professor of Economics at Exeter University, *argues against the current* consensus that fiscal policy is ineffective in influencing demand and output.

He contends that some fiscal *actions by government could* be very powerful in managing demand by influencing the pattern of *spending* and provides model-based evidence of the effect on out*put of different* types of fiscal stimulation. His findings are interesting in themselves, but the key point is that Professor Wren-Lewis *writes on the assumption that* there is nothing intrinsically wrong with using fiscal policy to determine the level of output at any given time.

> ❛The most important nod in the direction of Keynes is that tackling unemployment is on the agenda❜

By far *the most important* nod in the direction of Keynes is the fact that tackling unemployment is back on the economic and political agenda. On *the simplest* level, *this is* because unemployment is now perceived as a much more pressing social and economic problem than inflation which, *for now*, *is relatively* well behaved throughout the world.

But it is critically because supply side measures, and most importantly, reforms to *make the labour market more* flexible, are widely believed to have changed the balance between inflation and unemployment. There may still be a dominant camp of those who believe, as Norman Lamont so notoriously expressed it, that *unemployment is a* "price worth paying" for low inflation. The difference now is that the price may have been paid.

The belief is that the Nairu (*the non-accelerating inflation* rate of unemployment) or the "natural rate" of unemployment has dropped. In other words, Britain can have lower unemployment *without* igniting higher inflation. How far unemployment can fall without tightening conditions in the labour market to the extent that wages start to rise in order to attract the right kind of staff is a key question of the current economic debate and lies at the centre of current contention on whether Britain needs higher interest rates or not.

Belief that the Nairu has fallen cuts across political lines. *A private dinner of top-flight* British economists with very different political sympathies recently found nobody in disagreement that Conservative *supply side reforms have* worked. Most people used to think that the unemployment rate could fall to 7 per cent without risking higher inflation. *Many economists will* now bet money on 6 or even 5 per cent. Professor Patrick Minford talks about a natural rate of 2 per cent.

For the record, it is worth noting that last week's labour market statistics showed the unemployment rate falling to 6.2 per cent in February and *the annual rate of average* earnings growth rising — some say ominously — to 5 per cent. It remains *to* be seen whether this increase largely reflects City bonuses or more widespread pressure on wages as unemployment falls.

In the brave new world of post-Thatcherism — and of course Reaganism — it is an exciting challenge for policymakers to test just how far *unemployment can safely fall*. In this sense, Keynesian fine-tuning is certainly back.

Alan Greenspan, at the US Federal Reserve, has sailed as *close to the inflationary wind* as possible to pursue the goal of higher employment and done so with considerable success. In Britain, Mr Clarke has, by refusing to be panicked into raising interest rates by the Bank of England, tested his own belief *that Conservative reforms may* have raised Britain's long-run sustainable growth rate from perhaps 2.25 *per cent to* nearer to 3 per cent. Treasury mandarins are, as ever, *more cautious*, allowing themselves to think in terms of a small rise to 2.50 per cent.

Against this background, *new Labour finds itself in un*comfortable territory. Although it has pledged not to reverse Conservative reforms, it cannot bear to acknowledge *fully that they have worked*. The danger of this is that Gordon Brown may fail to test the lower limits of unemployment by encouraging a little bit more *demand and* chooses *to pursue* an unnecessarily cautious policy of tight money, dubbed sadomonetarism by some.

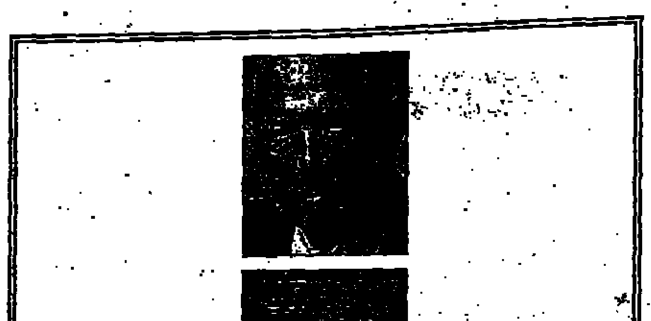
Mr Brown's sales pitch is *that Conservative economic* policies have failed and that it is new Labour that will raise Britain's long-run growth rate, largely through improving in*vestment in physical* and intellectual capital. Most economists *believe* that trying *to* build up skills and education, in particular, is a useful aim in itself but there is great scepticism that Labour will succeed in raising Britain's growth rate much further, except in the very long term.

For one thing, the Labour argument that low investment under successive Conservative governments has held back British growth does not completely hold water. Gross fixed capital formation *has run at an* average of 20.8 per cent of gross domestic product since 1965 and is close to that during the current recovery.

Regardless of *Labour's* accent on raising the growth rate through encouraging greater investment, Mr Brown seems to be missing the point that *there may still be scope to* reduce unemployment by taking Keynesian measures simply to bring the economy back to its full growth potential.

There are still those, of course, who argue that Britain has reached its current combination of low inflation and fast-falling unemployment through *the economic brutality of two* deep recessions. Praise of Conservative supply side reforms has to be tempered with the observation that unemploy*ment is still half a million* higher than it was in 1979.

But Mr Brown has to answer the question whether he, as Chancellor, would be prepared *to wipe that half a million off* unemployment relatively swiftly by taking the demand side measures that the New Keynesian consensus is beginning to *endorse*.



Forecast: fog persisting indefinitely

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again" is not a bad rule *for schoolchildren who get* the answer wrong first go; they have been taught the rules, so they simply have to apply them. For grown-up forecasters and analysts, however, the world is not so *simple*. They apply the rules they have learnt, but they get the wrong answer. *Did they* miscalculate, or are the rules themselves wrong? This *question* is pressing, because forecasts seem to go from bad to worse; yet few of those who mislead us so confidently seem willing to consider *revising the rules*.

Look through the reports from lagging investment managers (notably those who preach value investing) or *from* the economists who have been crying "wolf" about inflation for so long, and you will find something very like obstinacy. "We got it wrong last time," they admit, "but it will be different next time." Or the time after. Not the forecast, that is to say, but the outcome. Our copybook rules are bound to work in the end.

Why do these people, from the Bank of England down, cling to strategies or models that are clearly faulty, and doing such damage to their reputations? Partly pride but partly economic pressure. Strategies and models cost. Value *investment* relies on a huge effort in company analysis. An economic model, which can rival the complexity of a weather forecasting *system, is even worse*. So fine tune, by all means: check all the inputs (remember: garbage in, garbage out). But back to the drawing board? *Not if we can help it*; and anyway, who would pay for all the new software?

An honourable exception, at first sight, is Oxford Eco*nomic Forecasting, whose* warning of policy dilemmas for the next government was making so much weekend news. Most of their assess*ment section is an attempt to* work out the consequences of the recent huge rise in sterling — an event which, they admit, took them, like most *others, completely by sur*prise. They are bold enough to *question* the consensus view that with sterling so strong, inflation must fall; after all, inflation *failed to* rise when sterling was weak, so the link must be less *direct than it looks*. Full marks for open-mindedness. Full marks, *too*, for clear language: *I* have seldom read an economic discussion in such limpid prose. No bafflegab at all.

But *what are they saying?* They do *start* one possible hare: the effect of exchange-rate change on prices depends not just on the *numbers*, *but on what* caused any change. But since this change took them by surprise, they do not presumably know what caused it; so they might just say: "This needs further research", and move on. But they don't. They start discussing hypothetical cases; and just what they are saying so lucidly, damned if *I* know, even after *several* readings. The rise of the pound might hold prices down, for a short or perhaps a longer time, or not; or it might even push them up. There: that must cover all the exits.

It ought surely be possible to do better than this. For a *start, the rise in sterling* was not a surprise to everyone. Patrick Minford of Liverpool got it broadly right. (Why was this thinker dropped as a Treasury wise man? For showing up the others?) Readers of these pages will have read again and again that tight fiscal and loose monetary policy (for example, Japan and the EMU candidates) drives ex*change rates down*; *and in* case you missed the point, all these countries have announced that they wanted to devalue. So has the pound *risen much at all, or are we* simply on the other end of a see-saw? That looks like the main explanation.

So *far as it is not, it* suggests that British interest rates are too high, not too low; and that fiscal policy is still too relaxed. *Awkward politically*, but hardly a dilemma. The big threat to Gordon Brown's sleep is not policy, but his proposed Council of *Economic Advisers. If Ox*ford is a fair sample of the goods on offer (and it is a bit better that fair), he will soon be lost in the fog too.

Jason Nissé looks into Saudi business strife

Family feud poses wider worries

A change is blowing through the opaque world of Saudi Arabian business *life*. A legal battle for control of the $4 billion Abdul Latif Jameel Group (ALJ), the *international property*, motor trading and consumer products giant, has exposed a structural schism and threatens the development of one of *the world's richest nations*.

The fight for ALJ was prompted by the death in 1993 of Sheikh Abdul Jameel, *its* 84-year-old founder. A low-paid government official, he started the company in 1945, distributing Western consumer goods to the *newly affluent Saudis. When*, ten years later, he gained the rights to sell the Toyota Land *Cruiser*, a *four-wheel* drive vehicle essential before today's modern road *networks* were completed in the Gulf, the company mushroomed.

Gaining rights to sell the Land Cruiser boosted ALJ

It is now the UK's third largest car dealer, owning Hartwell, the Land Rover seller. *It also distributes* electronic goods for Toshiba and Akai in the Gulf and has widespread *US property interests*.

Under Sharia, Sheikh Jameel's assets were divided *between his six* children, the three sons, Yousef, Mohammed and Magdi each receiv*ing 22.2 per* cent of the group *and the three daughters* 11.1 per cent each.

Magdi, at 40 the youngest, *was seen by many* as the heir-apparent, having run the electronics business and the US operations. The eldest, Yousef, was an international playboy, well *known* in *London* clubs and casinos until 1988 when he breached a court order and *kidnapped his daughter*, Sara, 9. This restricted his movements as he could have been *imprisoned for contempt* had he entered the UK.

Now based in Jeddah, the Saudi capital, Yousef and the middle brother, Mohammed, decided to take control of the group. Magdi claims they *used a power of attorney given* by Magdi in the Seventies, *changing the articles of associ*ation *to nullify* his blocking vote in the company and transfering the jewel in its crown, the Toyota agency, to a company run by Mohammed.

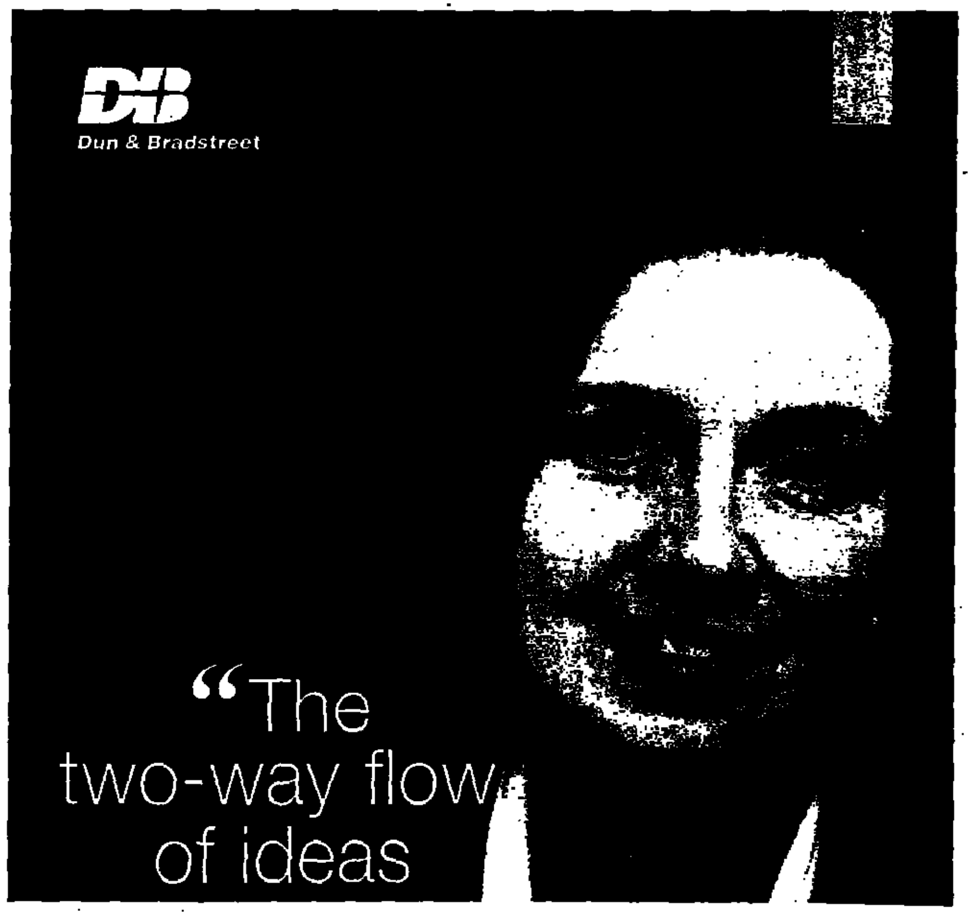
Magdi and his younger sister, Nadia, are now suing to overturn this and gain their *share of control of the group*.

An advisor to Magdi says: "This is one of the biggest *companies* in Saudi Arabia and it raises key questions about corporate governance. *If* the *country* wants to position itself as a modern economy with modern business practices, this sort of thing should not happen." However, it *is* happening all over the country, as the issue of control of the massive *industrial infrastructure* created by Saudi Arabia's oil boom of the last half century comes to the boil. Most of the country's businesses are owned by families, *often* headed by ageing patriarchs.

Sharia, which worked well when *many* Saudis were nomadic farmers, works less well when trying to determine the future of industrial concerns.

The ALJ fight is the largest battle to emerge, but far from the first. Not long ago the Nagui family, which *owns* agencies for Rothman cigarettes and BMW cars, was torn apart by a battle between the leader's two sons over control of the group. In the end one son took the business while the other was paid off with assets and cash.

Magdi Jameel admits his fight may be bad for ALJ *prestige both at home and* abroad. But it is also exposing the desperate need for reform in the country's commercial structures and law and may have much more wide-reaching implictions than deciding who controls the company that might sell you your next Land Rover Discovery.



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Equities take heart from Wall Street

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	407½	Allied Domecq	445½	+3½	6.6	13.5
626	477	Bulmer (HP)	605	-8	2.8	18.0
131	62½	Burn Stewart	62½	-1	7.0	15.1
1060	615	Glenmorangie A	1010		1.5	27.5
503½	411	Grand Met	480	-2	4.1	15.5
506½	424	Guinness	505	+9	4.1	14.1
380	315	Highland Distl	349	+2½	3.0	16.8
502	255½	Matthew Clark	319½	+½	3.4	15.2
141	91½	Merrydown	94		6.1	12.7
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1946¼	-23¾	1.8	..

BANKS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4709¼	2743½	ABN-AMRO	4125	+71¼	2.8	16.8
811	528	Abbey Natl	735½	+21	4.4	13.0
455½	315	Allied Irish	406	...	4.5	...
409½	285	Aus New Z	395¼	-9	4.8	
7678¼	3943¼	Bank America	7025	+162½		
373½	227½	Bank Scotland	320	+6½	2.9	11.7
1226	633	Barclays†	1016½	+36	3.9	10.3
622	413	Bk of Ireland	591		3.5	13.4
7890½	4031¼	Citicorp	7303¼	+68¼		
1727¼	1262¾	Commerzbk	1671¼	-9¾	2.6	
1350	609¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	718¾	-16¾	0.6	
3490¼	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	3316½	+50	2.0	
912½	520½	Espirito Santo	895¼	-3½	3.9	12.6
1507	600½	Fuji Bank Y	766	-19¾	0.6	..
1622	931	HSBC†	1516½	+40½	3.4	13.1
1563½	930	HSBC HK†	1464	+37	3.5	12.7
605	395	Irish Perm†	585		2.8	
534	294½	Lloyds TSB†	482½	+28½	3.4	15.6
819½	555	Nat Aust Bk	765½	-12	5.4	10.2
844½	605½	Nat West†	685½	+9	5.3	10.3
622½	464	Ryl Bk Scot	519½	+4	4.5	11.5
900½	547	Stand Chart†	849	-4½	2.1	15.2
£174¼	£131½	Wells Fargo	£164¼		1.9	..
374¼	264	Westpac	350½	-5¼	3.8	11.6

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	702	Bass	809½	+8	3.9	15.9
70	45	Bch for the Bdr	61½		3.6	16.8
205	161	Burtonwd Brw	186½		3.6	16.8
155½	92	City Centre Rest	150½		1.9	28.4
744½	463	Compass Gp†	656½		1.6	26.0
290½	190	Eldridge P A	278½		2.4	17.1
540	413	Fuller Sm A	482½		2.4	16.1
636	508½	Greenalls Grp	533	+9½	3.7	16.5
750	567½	Greene King	716½	-1	2.8	17.6
265	164½	[illegible]	201½	-2½	3.8	19.5
285	204	Groupe Chez Ger	252½		1.4	24.7
357	273½	Hardy Hanson	279½	+1	4.7	12.7
3475	2700	Holt J	2725		2.6	14.7
79	45	Inn Business†	72	-½	2.7	
357	298	Mansfield	353		2.2	16.2
363½	257	Merston Thmp	293½		3.3	10.6
659	524	Morland	605		2.8	15.9
72½	35½	Paramount	35½			
830½	317	PizzaExpress†	737½	-15	0.5	48.1
439	345	Ramsdens (H)	422½		1.5	
379½	138½	Regent Inns†	306½		1.0	29.3
707½	601	Scot & New	664	-½	3.8	20.1
313	245	Vaux Group	267½		5.0	12.7
1256	640	Wetherspoon JD†	1187½	+5	1.0	26.5
819	672	Whitbread	760	+1½	3.7	15.4
709½	579	Wolverhmptn D	672		3.2	14.8
493½	397	Yates Bros	491		1.0	31.8
650	435	Young A	620		3.1	24.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
34½	15	AAF Inds	21½			
205	135	Abbey	205		3.4	21.0
299½	212½	Allen	297½	-1	2.9	18.2
127	86½	Amec	127	-1½	3.0	21.4
492	117	Amey	477½	-1	2.0	30.2
537½	252	Andrews Sykes	530	+30	1.2	11.5
384½	152	Ashtead†	277½	-1½	1.4	25.0
48½	35	Azurade	44½		2.8	
42	24	Bailey (Ben) Con	35		3.8	14.1
35½	18½	Band†	35		3.9	21.9
64½	34	Barcam	60½	-1	2.5	34.7
291½	279	Barratt Devs	282½	+2	3.9	14.7

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
467½	323	Electrocomponents	418		2.1	25.3
314	125½	Eurodis Elect	180	-4	3.4	25.7
156	65	[illegible]	135½		5.5	13.9
105	76	European Mtr	85½		7.7	8.7
375	217	Evans Halshaw	345		6.8	
67	39½	Fife Indmar	50½		5.2	7.6
397½	233½	Finelist Grp▼	352½		2.1	17.9
34½	16½	Gardiner†	30¼	-1	3.9	11.5
81	32½	[illegible]	72½	-½	2.4	13.9
170	70½	[illegible]	97		3.9	
101	72	[illegible]	99½	+½	7.8	9.0
292	218	Harris (Philip)	252½		4.3	15.4
320½	208½	HeadLam	318½		2.3	36.4
208	132	Holders Tech	154	+5	5.4	
242½	155	ISA Intl	228½		1.6	
316	231	Inchcape	265½	-3	5.1	15.1
78	33	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
260	169	Kwik-Fit	237½	-3	3.0	16.8
390	299	Lex Service†	340	-1½	5.9	11.2
155	102	Lookers†	104		9.6	7.0
17	10½	Malaya Grp†	12½		6.6	
9¼	5¾	Middlesex	7¼	..	1.3	11.1
47	31	[illegible]	35	-1	0.9	
555	279	[illegible]	265	+5½	3.8	7.3
174½	115	[illegible]	143½		1.2	8.6
352½	191½	Partco▼	334		3.0	
464½	272	Pendragon	381	-6½	3.3	..
223½	145	Perry Gp	210		5.5	
752½	477½	Premier Farnell	461	-½	3.0	19.7
190	135	Quicks Group	140½		5.8	10.5
348	195	REA	312½	-2½	1.6	37.5
3	2	Reece	2¼			
54	20	Ronson	21	-½	8.9	7.2
4½	2	Ross Gp	3		..	..
109½	66	Ryland†	91½		5.5	16.4
56	25½	SEP Indl†	27½		8.0	7.4
195	55	[illegible]	60		2.1	19.4
417½	245	Time Products	390½	-12	3.5	16.0
301½	173	UNIECO	255	-2	2.6	16.9
352½	262½	Vardy (Reg)	335½		2.6	14.6
650	525	[illegible]	612		2.7	22.2
59	25½	[illegible]	36¼	+¼	2.9	10.7
172½	73½	Wyko†	151½	-1	2.2	17.7
154½	104	Young (H)	136½	-1	3.8	11.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
420	288	Antofagasta	382½		1.7	
387	263	Ascot Hldgs	292	-9	2.2	
1056	785	[illegible]	821½	-12½	3.0	18.5
340	223	BTR†	261	-6½	4.6	14.3
586	411	BAT†	528	+19	6.2	11.5
195½	108	[illegible]	189½	+1½	4.9	11.0
65	50½	[illegible]	57	-1½	8.1	9.6
972	715	Charter†	817½	-3½	4.5	11.5
328	205	Cookson†	235½	-1	4.6	17.1
229½	141	Cosalt†	203½		6.0	9.9
312½	204	DCC	299½	-8	2.9	11.9
141½	103½	Grampian Hdg	120½	-1	6.5	12.4
172½	118½	[illegible]	127½	+1	9.2	11.3
509¼	379½	Hutch Whamp	459½	+6	2.2	18.9
439½	352	Imperial Tobacco	418	+1	6.0	8.4
563½	344½	Jardine Math	355½	-1½	4.3	
217½	116½	Lonrho†	150	+½	4.0	13.6
191	164	McLeod Russel	166		5.0	13.5
478	368	Powell Duffryn	435	..	7.2	17.1
146	97	Ropner	145		7.1	12.5
232	153½	Staveley	183½	+1	6.3	13.1
607	453½	Swire Pacific	488½	+1½	2.7	17.9
362½	268	TT Group	280	-1½	2.7	15.2
296½	232½	Tomkins†	272½	+½	4.7	13.6
295	167½	[illegible]	192½		9.4	
512½	365	Wardle Storeys	438½		5.4	16.2
387½	254	Wassall	349	+2½	2.2	21.4
227	123½	Whitecroft	152		4.1	12.1
369½	294½	Williams Hdg	335	+1	5.6	13.9

ELECTRICITY

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
163½	89	Br Energy P/P	139	-½	7.5	
737	479	East Midlands	670		5.9	9.9
570½	463½	Energy Group	471½	+5	5.6	9.1
873	565	London Elect	704½	+½	7.3	10.8
217½	164½	National Grid	209½		6.6	8.4
615	373½	National Power	475	-2½	6.2	9.0
724	494	Northern Elec	651	...	8.4	5.9
456	306	N'thn Ireland†	364		6.7	5.7
664	402	PowerGen	584	-½	4.8	6.8
372	271½	Hydro-Elect	354	-2	5.8	9.0
394½	293½	Scottish Power	335½	-½	6.2	10.0

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
151	109	Adwest†	136½		7.7	17.8
295	160	Airflow Stream	195		5.1	8.4
757	473	Avon Rubber	735		3.3	14.7
107	57½	BSG	100		4.5	
353	227½	[illegible]	270	+12½	3.3	
29	15	[illegible]	16½		7.6	38.7
707	431	First Tech	662	-6½	1.8	19.6
1186	778	GKN†	1015	+30	3.3	15.6
3800	2950	General Mtr	3575	+40½	3.5	
669	497	[illegible]	534	+1½	3.5	12.6
1975½	1312½	Honda Motor	1809½	+4	0.4	
502	349	Laird	355	-½	4.3	10.8
262	172	LucasVarity	197½	+1	0.0	
165½	91	Mayflower	157		1.8	29.3
193	145	Syltone	167½	-1	4.4	12.3
190½	130½	T & N	151½	+5½	5.1	
116	34½	Toad	35	-½		
433	252½	Trinity Hldgs	331½		3.2	16.9

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
559½	355	AB Food	559	+26	2.1	18.4
311½	233	Acatos & Hutch†	300	+1½	4.2	40.5
53	38½	Albert Fisher	45½	+1	10.4	11.0
325	265	[illegible]	302		4.7	11.4
405	313	Barr (AG)†	387		2.8	21.0
43	21	Bensons Crisps	36½		3.4	9.2
418½	333½	Booker	333½	-3½	9.4	
39	20½	Borthwick	29½		5.5	37.3
507	105	CPL Aromas	107½		5.9	5.4
567	464	Cadbury-Schwpt	541	+7	3.9	14.8
99½	65	Canadian Pizza†	84½	+½	7.4	
348	298	Carrs Milling	319		4.1	10.3
112	60	Cavaghan†	63½	+1	7.3	
238	171	Cranswick	238	+2	5.0	13.9
225	182½	Dairy Crest Group	203½	+1½	5.6	10.0
444	297½	Dalgety	337½	+11½	8.4	28.7
47½	30½	Daniels S†	40		0.8	32.1
303½	215	Devro	303½	+6	3.6	21.6
100½	61	Finlay (James)	99½		4.6	19.1
274	185	Geest	253½	+2½	4.2	30.0
26	16	Global	22½	-½	3.7	
380	278	Greencore	345		2.6	13.6
123	85½	Hazlewood Fds	114		7.3	8.4
202½	163½	Hillsdown	188½	+2	6.9	11.5
77½	50	JLI Group	70½		9.8	
412	310	Linton Park	401½		4.7	14.1
132	95	Matthews (B)	123½	+2	4.2	
231	176½	Nichols (V)	186		4.5	11.7
226	171	[illegible]	208½		5.5	13.3
19½	10½	[illegible]	16½		1.1	8.8
118	80	Pascoe's	95½			17.0
88½	67½	Perkins Food	85	+1	6.8	
70	44½	[illegible]	65	-½	3.8	
263	96	Sentry Farm	147½	+2½	2.9	10.0
42	18	Sims Food	30½			
514½	425	Tate & Lyle	434½	+½	4.9	11.1
399	150	Treatt†	196½		4.6	13.9
464½	392	Unigate	450	-½	5.4	11.4
1657½	1172½	Unilever	1611	+22½	2.5	
£122¼	8525	Unilever (NV)	£117¼	+212½	1.9	.
274	194½	Utd Biscuits†	233½	+5	5.4	15.8
35½	24½	WT Foods	30½		5.5	20.8
92	10½	Yorkshire Food	11½	-½	9.6	

HEALTHCARE

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1340	818	Amersham	1225	+3½	1.9	20.2

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
99	74	Klnwt H Inc†	94½	-1	13.1	10.0
306½	261	Klnwt O'seas†	280	-1	2.3	
186½	136	Klnwt Smllr	184½		2.4	.
597	268½	Korea—Euro	268½	-1½	0.5	
134¼	85½	Latin American	127¼	-¼		
1035	913	Law Debenture†	924½	-1	3.4	
115	101	Life Offices Tst	106½			
133	99	Lloyds Sm Cap	131½			
27	22	Lloyds Sm Dist	22½		22.8	
158½	126	Lloyds Sm Pkgt	155		3.1	39.9
174	151	Lon St Lawrence	166½		4.7	26.7
353	289	Lowland	317½	-2½	4.3	24.7
695	573	M&G 2nd Dual Cp	667½	-5		
114	75½	M&G 2nd Dual In	77½	..		2.8
3480	2903	M&G Dual Cap#	3460			
235	95	M&G Dual Inc#	99			1.2
88	56	M&G Inc Geared†	63½		10.6	17.4
36½	27	M&G Inc Inv Tst Co	34½	-¼		
110	83½	Mercury World	95½	-½	1.5	79.1
31	6½	Mercury Wld Wts	10½	-¼		
668½	567	Monks Inv Tst	636½	-1½	1.9	48.8
180½	151	Morg Gren Inc	164	-2½	4.6	26.1
74	52½	Morg Wts	65	-1		
91	57½	Morg Lat Amer	84½	..	0.4	
35½	20	Morg Wts	31½			
131	111	Murray Ent	125½	-2	2.8	36.6
24	13½	Murray Ent Wts	17½			
95	69	Murray Emg Eco	82½		0.6	
35½	14½	Murray Em Ec Wt	18½	+¼		
74	54	Murray Euro	73½		0.8	..
400½	338	Murray Income†	377½	-1	4.6	38.0
463	377	Murray Intl	440½	-½	3.8	
198¼	180	Murray S/C DP	195¼	...		

LEISURE & HOTELS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
547	336	Rank Grp†	422½	+4½	5.0	23.6
47	31	Ryan Hotels IC	43½	-1	5.0	9.9
1525	930	Savoy Hotel A	1432½		1.5	
239½	171½	Sinclair (Wm)†	220½	-1½	4.6	12.6
153½	45	Southampton	70		1.8	
110½	75½	Stakis†	105	+3	2.6	17.2
373	167½	Stanley Leisure	356	+1½	1.5	29.4
20½	6½	Tandem	7	¼		
346	346	Tempus†	346		1.4	22.4
210	155	Thistle Hotels†	183	+4	2.5	17.9
142	44½	Tottenhm Hot	109		0.8	18.6
127½	85	Toy Options	113½		3.9	9.2
350	234½	VCI	255½		3.9	
138	78½	Vardon†	126	-1	1.9	18.0
412½	306	Wembley	379½		0.7	12.3
130	90½	Zetters Gp	96		13.0	9.7

MEDIA

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
697	376	BSkyB†	637½	+7½	1.1	42.0
188	113½	CIA Gp	156		1.8	18.1
734	516½	Capital Radio	569		2.7	19.5
577½	379½	Carlton Comm†	503	+3	2.8	15.9
812½	363	Chrysalis†	760	-5	0.5	
93	69	City of Lon	72½	+3½	9.0	9.7
138	89½	Cordiant	121	+½	1.0	
1731¼	1300	Daily Mail	1684½	+6½	1.4	27.7
1668½	1168½	Daily Mail 'A'	1578½	+16½	1.6	25.9
646	245	Dorling Kind	271	-1½	2.1	22.7
831½	530	EMAP	749	+1	2.0	25.9
1480	1085½	EMI	1117½	+15	3.1	27.4
1091	845½	Elsevier	957	+15½	2.6	
1515	1030	Euromoney Pbl	1442½		4.0	20.2
49	19	Fitch†	42½		1.2	11.7
803½	440	Flextech	632½	-1	.	.

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
288	224½	Ivory Sime	231½		4.6	15.8
230½	183½	Jardine Strat	215½	+2½	4.2	
172½	98	Johnson Fry	128½		2.9	5.6
485	405	Leopold J	485		5.0	28.7
503½	328	Liberty Intl†	451	+½	4.4	27.9
437½	218	Lon Forfaitg†	380½		3.7	14.1
361	205½	London Pacific†	219½		8.2	..
117	87½	Lon Scot Bk	103		3.6	18.0
200½	139	Man ED & F	190½	+1	6.8	10.2
1467½	1040½	M & G	1345		3.3	22.7
1428½	841	MAM	1281	+11½	3.8	21.5
178½	90½	Paragon	156½		1.9	7.6
2785	1630	Perpetual	2580		2.8	16.9
812½	395	Provident†	547½	+4	3.5	18.2
337	302½	Rathbone Brs	330		4.1	14.3
67	49½	Rea Brothers	49½		2.6	

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
101	100	Treas 7% 1997	100	-	6.98	6.23
107	101	Treas 8¾% 1997	101		8.66	6.20
114	102	Exch 15% 1997	104	-	14.29	6.30
106	100	Exch 9¾% 1998	102		9.51	6.47
109	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100 †		7.20	6.57
116	108	Treas 14% 1998-01	108	-	12.96	6.69
122	112	Treas 15½% 1998	112 †		13.80	6.79
114	107	Exch 12% 1998	107		11.12	6.83
108	97	Treas 9½% 1999	104	+	9.11	6.89
116	109	Exch 12¼% 1999	109 xd	+	11.17	6.98
112	106	Treas 10½% 1999	106	+	9.82	6.93
99	95	Treas 6% 1999	97	+	6.13	6.96
118	107	Conv 10¼% 1999	107	+	9.54	7.09
108	103	Conv 9% 2000	104	+	8.58	7.16
105	101	Treas 8% 2000	102	+	7.81	7.20
124	116	Treas 13% 2000	116	+	11.14	7.21
114	100	Treas 10% 2001	109	+	9.17	7.29
101	96	Treas 7% 2001	98	+	7.08	7.29

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
122	108	Treas 9¾% 2002	110	+	8.85	7.41
105	99	Treas 8% 2003	102	+	7.78	7.40
117	110	Treas 10% 2003	112	+	8.88	7.45
121	114	Treas 11½% 2001-04	114	+	10.07	7.29
86	78	Fund 3½% 1999-04	83	+	4.17	6.74
114	107	Conv 9½% 2004	111	+	8.53	7.48
98	91	Treas 6¾% 2004	95	+	7.04	7.45
109	101	Treas 8½% 2005	105	+	8.02	7.54
122	108	Conv 9½% 2005	111	+	8.51	7.54
131	123	Treas 12½% 2003-05	125	+	9.94	7.48
103	94	Treas 7½% 2006	99	+	7.54	7.56
107	96	Treas 7¾% 2006	100	+	7.68	7.60
104	97	Treas 8% 2002-06	101 xd	+	7.87	7.55
125	115	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	119 xd	+	9.81	7.47
110	101	Treas 8½% 2007	106	-	7.99	7.59
114	103	Treas 9% 2008	110	+	8.16	7.63
106	95	Treas 8% 2009	102 †	+	7.80	7.67

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
91	81	Treas 6¼% 2010	87	-	[illegible]	[illegible]
115	104	Conv 9% 2011	111	-	8.11	7.71
116	104	Treas 9% 2012	111	-	8.08	[illegible]
85	75	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81	-	6.73	7.48
107	98	Treas 8% 2013	102 †	-	7.80	[illegible]
104	93	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	99	+	7.75	7.73
107	95	Treas 8% 2015	102	-	7.77	7.69
115	102	Treas 8¾% 2017	110	-	7.94	7.74
108	95	Tr 8% 2021	103	-	[illegible]	7.62

UNDATED

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
47	41	War Ln 3½%	44		7.86	
33	29	Treas 2½%	31 †	-	8.05	
54	46	Consols 4%	49	-	8.07	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
114	111	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113			[illegible]
187	176	Treas IL 2½% 2001	185	+	[illegible]	3.37
184	171	Treas IL 2½% 2003	181	-	[illegible]	3.46
120	112	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	117	-	3.06	3.46
195	179	Treas IL 2% 2006	191	-	3.18	3.49
178	161	Treas IL 2½% 2009	171	-	3.28	3.54
183	166	Treas IL 2½% 2011	177	-	3.33	3.56
150	139	Treas IL 2½% 2013	146	-	3.38	3.58
161	145	Treas IL 2½% 2016	156	-	3.41	3.60
154	138	Treas IL 2½% 2020	149	-	3.48	3.64
126	115	Treas IL 2½% 2024	123	-	3.50	3.64
126	113	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	121 †	-	3.50	3.64

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ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

هكذا من [illegible]

Tibbett & Britten recovers

Tibbett & Britten, the contract logistics company, saw pre-tax profits recover to £23.8 million in 1996 from £12.1 million previously, helped by improved trading conditions in the UK. Earnings almost doubled to 35.8p a share. There is a final dividend of 12p, making a total of 17.2p (16.2p). Almost half the total revenue was earned outside the UK, with North America accounting for more than 75 per cent of revenue growth.

Deal agreed

Fayrewood, the Aim-listed distributor of audio equipment, has conditionally agreed to buy Banque Magnetique for Fr23 million (£2.5 million) in cash and 457,446 Fayrewood shares. A further Fr12 million may be payable if performance criteria is met. Fayrewood shares have been suspended at 67½p due to the size of the deal.

Luminar issue

Luminar, the bar and restaurant group, is to raise £15.6 million in a one-for-three rights issue at 320p a share. The shares rose 14¼p to 359½p after the announcement. The cash will be used to speed up the expansion of the Chicago Rock cafe theme bar and restaurant business.

Symonds fall

Shares in Symonds fell 17p to 42p after the electronic equipment group said results for the year to March 31 will not meet expections "because of order shortfalls in the process technology and precision engineering divisions".

Capital foiled

Pre-tax profits at Capital Industries fell to £6.3 million (£6.5 million) in 1996 on turnover of £86.7 million (£89 million). The supplier of specialist packaging and foils is increasing the total dividend to 5.7p (5.2p), with a final 3p.

Logica helpline

Logica, the computer services group, will today announce a £1.5 million contract to set up an emergency helpline for customers of ScottishPower, the electricity provider. The system will be named Trouble Call.

Kingsbury lift

Kingsbury Group, the furniture retailer, lifted pre-tax profits to £4.5 million from £4.1 million in 1996. A final dividend of 2.5p lifts the total 25 per cent to 3.75p, payable from earnings of 12.6p a share (11.7p).

Pilkington profit warning shatters City expectations

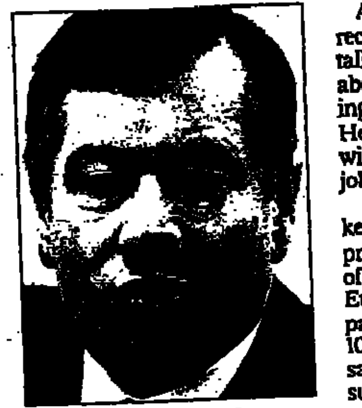
By Oliver August

A PROFITS warning from Pilkington, the glass products group, shattered City optimism ahead of the results for the year to March 31. The profit forecast was revised down from £175 million to £130 million, sending the shares to their lowest level in more than three years.

The main reason for the shortfall is the depressed construction sector in Europe and overcapacity in the glass industry, Pilkington said. Sales volumes and end-product prices were badly hit in Germany, the group's main market.

The German building sector suffered heavy losses after the post-unification construction bubble burst two years ago. A restructuring programme announced last year will be accelerated and expanded to cope with market conditions.

Divisions on the Continent face additional plant and line closures to improve efficiency. The group said: "As a result, ongoing restructuring costs of close to £20 million per annum will be borne in the next two years, twice the level previously indicated."


Rudd: setback

A further one-off charge of £40 million is to be expected in the 1997 accounts to cover asset write-offs associated with its restructuring plans. Pilkington does not expect total net exceptional losses of more than £55 million.

Andrew Robb, finance director, said Pilkington is in talks with unions in Germany about the closure of processing and double glazing plants. He said: "In Germany there will be a significant number of job losses."

Europe is the biggest market for building material glass products. Around 80 per cent of sales are in continental Europe. Mr Robb said overcapacity in Europe had reached 10 per cent, but he believes sales will pick up in the summer.

Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman, said: "These results represent a setback. However, I have no doubt the group's underlying strategy is sound."

The strength of the pound cost the group about £10 million because of a mixture of losses in translating foreign profits into sterling and the increased attractiveness of cheaper imports. The shares closed 7½p down at 120p.

Tempus, page 30

Sale boosts Singer & Friedlander

By Robert Miller

SINGER & Friedlander, the City merchant bank, received a boost from the sale of its stake in Peoples Phone to lift annual pre-tax profits by 57 per cent, to £54.8 million.

Without the exceptional sale item, Singer profits in the year to December 31 rose 22 per cent, to £41.7 million. Earnings per share, excluding the sale, rose to 11.63p, from 9.96p in 1995. The final dividend, due on June 4, rises to 2.8p, from 2.4p, making 4.65p (4p).

Singer, which saw funds under management rise to £6 billion, from £3.8 billion, said that Carnegie, a Nordic stockbroking, investment banking and asset management firm, had contributed £16.1 million to profits, against £14.3 million last time. Collins Stewart, the bank's broking arm, also contributed to bottom-line profits. In corporate broking, Collins Stewart raised more than £300 million.

On insurance broking, Singer said that "in spite of all steps" taken to reduce costs in Edgar Hamilton, the business continued to decline and make losses and had therefore been sold. The loss for the part of the year in which Singer owned the broker was £300,000, and there was a capital loss on sale of £3 million.

Singer shares fell 10p to close at 141p.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Charles Parker, the managing director of leisure group Clubhaus, and Guy Buckley, chief operating officer, celebrate a 70 per cent rise in profits to £1.49 million. Earnings reached 3.6p a share but there is no final dividend.

Booker figures suffer over cost of buying rival

By Sarah Cunningham

THE cost of buying Nurdin & Peacock, a direct competitor, knocked back pre-tax profits at Booker, Britain's largest cash and carry operator, from £83 million to £13 million last year.

The company also revealed yesterday that the additional volume produced by the acquisition has put the reorganisation of its distribution nerwork six months behind schedule. The integration of the two companies is otherwise on schedule.

Profits for the year to December 28 were hit by exceptional charges of £88.9 million relating to the £264 million acquisition made in November, and to the reorganisation of Booker's food service operations.

Operating profit from continuing operations excluding exceptionals rose 4 per cent to £122.4 million, while turnover from continuing operations increased 5 per cent to £4.44 billion.

Food wholesaling profits rose 27 per cent, including a contribution from Nurdin & Peacock. Fish processing also grew strongly, but profits declined in the agricultural businesses and in food service, which suffered from competitive markets and pressure on markets. Difficulties are expected to continue at Holroyd Meek, the contract caterers, throughout 1997.

Charles Bowen, chief executive, said he would consider selling the prepared foods business, which is considered non-core, but he has not yet received any reasonable offers. Booker would expect to raise more than £50 million from a sale.

After exceptionals, a loss per share of 4.7p compares to earnings of 22.8p per share a year earlier. Net debt at the end of the year was £381.9 million.

Booker shares fell 3½p to 333½p as Jonathan Taylor, chairman, gave warning that significant benefits will not be seen by shareholders until 1998. A final dividend of 15.7p (15.2p) is payable on July 1. It gives a full-year dividend of 23.8p (23.1p).

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	717.90	763.80	+ 3.00	2.38
General Inc	594.80	632.80	+ 2.50	2.38
UK Growth Acc	497.70	529.50	+ 2.30	2.49
UK Growth Inc	322.00	342.60	+ 2.30	2.49
Higher Inc Acc	884.30	940.80	+ 1.30	2.49
Higher Inc Inc	471.10	501.20	+ 6.10	3.97
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	214.40	228.50	+ 3.30	3.97
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	91.64	95.80	+ 0.50	5.59
Nth America	359.70	382.70	+ 0.17	5.59
Europe	396.30	421.60	- 4.30	
Brit Excel	97.87	104.20	+ 3.20	0.31
Brit Fedsdts Acc	125.30	133.40	+ 0.50	2.62
Brit Fedsdts Inc	82.72	88.00	+ 0.30	4.65
Global Opps	103.90	110.60	+ 0.22	4.65
Balanced Acc	66.08	70.30	+ 0.10	
Balanced Inc	81.70	65.64	+ 0.19	2.47
Japan Acc	37.61	40.02	+ 0.17	2.47
Pac Basin Acc	391.50	416.50	- 0.09	
			- 0.59	0.99
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	131.70	139.70†	+ 0.30	6.66
High Inc Equity	195.80	209.20	+ 0.20	4.54
Worldwide Bond	267.40	283.50†	- 0.30	4.24
American Growth	423.00	451.90	+ 0.10	0.37
Asian Pacific	328.60	351.40	+ 0.20	0.28
Assets & Earnings	317.50	339.80	+ 0.30	2.78
Euro Capital Acc	202.40	216.50	+ 0.20	0.73
Extra Inc	42.54	45.25†	+ 0.10	8.09
General	289.30	307.80†	+ 0.70	2.99
Global Opps	74.03	78.76	+ 0.07	8.51
Japan	88.57	94.73	- 0.07	..
Managed Inc	49.05	52.18‡	+ 0.07	4.31
Mastertrust	174.30	185.40	+ 0.20	1.29
US Emerging Cos	179.10	190.50	- 3.30	
Ethical	87.42	93.00	+ 0.29	1.58
International	138.80	147.70		0.59
Dividend & Growth	72.30	76.92	+ 0.14	4.37
Global Gwth & Sec	74.96	79.98	..	2.53
Latin America	81.36	86.55	- 0.47	0.45
Capital Reserve	148.10	148.20	+ 0.20	4.72
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	161.29	173.44	- 0.67	0.76
UK Equity	103.71	110.78	+ 0.20	3.21
UK Equity & Bd	60.56	64.20	+ 0.25	6.29
UK Smlr Cos	54.94	58.77†	- 0.03	1.60
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	805.67	817.23	- 25.67	4.21
Inv Fd Acc	805.67	817.23	- 25.67	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	155.46	158.08	- 1.51	9.16
Fxd Int Sec Acc	155.46	156.08	- 1.51	
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	819.38	831.74	- 13.27	4.14
Investment Acc	138.25	138.80	- 62.18	
Fixed Int Inc	128.89	129.41	- 1.81	8.96
Fixed Int Acc	240.03	240.99	- 3.42	..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	88.47	93.35	.	5.37
Buck Bio-Tech	42.28	45.90	.	
Acorn Ethical Lst	188.92	198.33		0.43
City Fin Assets	82.19	86.31		1.78
City Fin Intl	91.45	96.03		0.13
Friars Hse Cap	322.75	343.35		2.31
Buckley Wrld Gth	143.31	151.91‡		
J Sld Inc/Gth Inc	59.66	62.65		3.31
Stsgr Utilities	64.10	65.47	+ 0.18	6.77
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.24	62.85†	- 0.40	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	82.78	87.64	+ 0.01	
Dragon Growth	71.87	76.86	+ 0.02	0.37
Equity High Inc	97.12	104.07†	+ 0.08	3.71
-do- Accum	142.39	152.56	+ 1.25	3.71
Extra Income Inc	26.95	28.38		7.22
Extra Income Acc	30.08	31.67		7.22
European Gwth	68.17	72.33	+ 0.39	0.46
Evergreen	31.60	33.79	+ 0.13	
General Equity	114.06	121.02	+ 0.44	2.65
Japan Growth	37.34	39.72	- 0.03	
Pedigree Gwth	68.11	72.90	+ 0.28	2.17

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	203.20	216.10	- 3.58	
Income #	242.00	257.44	+ 0.37	4.03
UK Growth	94.04	100.04	+ 0.17	1.85
Intl Growth	91.35	97.14#	+ 0.22	0.59
Ecology	108.96	115.33	+ 0.33	0.89
European	228.01	242.56	+ 0.16	0.21
Far Eastern	307.00	326.50	+ 1.00	.
UK Special Sits	59.92	63.91	- 0.06	0.38
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.32	60.07	+ 0.04	
High Income #	54.75	58.39	+ 0.14	4.80

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	109.32	116.29	+ 0.30	0.50
Intl Bond	63.07	68.25	- 0.08	4.74
Intl Equity Growth	87.72	93.25	+ 0.42	0.61
N Amer Growth	151.90	161.43†	+ 0.87	0.78
Special Sits Growth	30.13	32.05†	+ 0.09	2.04
UK Growth	496.06	527.72	+ 1.51	2.46
-do- Accum	685.00	728.72	+ 2.08	2.46
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1492.50	1513.40		3.30
Income #	1078.60	1095.28		4.50

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KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers, 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	109.90	104.30†		6.99
Euro Prov Inc	110.50	117.60	+ 0.60	2.75
-do- Accum	110.50	117.60	+ 0.60	2.75
Gilt Yield	118.90	125.40†	+ 0.50	6.45
Global Income	241.00	256.40†	- 1.90	3.11
High Yield	169.70	180.50	+ 2.80	5.17
-do- Accum	566.90	603.10	+ 9.70	5.17
Money Market	99.26	99.26†	+ 0.02	5.42
Smlr Cos Div	66.90	71.17†	- 0.09	3.64
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.160	10.310	+ 0.04	
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	157.50	167.58†	- 1.60	
Asian Growth	320.20	340.60	- 1.30	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	183.20	187.20		3.31
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Inc #	94.71	97.84		
UK & S Inv Portfolio	185.80	191.50		2.34
-do- Accum	222.70	229.50		2.34
UK Sel Portfolio	166.50	171.60	.	2.23
-do- Accum	202.70	208.90	.	2.23
UK 100 Cos	124.90	124.90†		2.48
-do- Accum	128.10	128.10†		2.48
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Fd	72.96	77.51	.	3.49

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	59.24	62.89	.	1.86
UK Stockmarket	109.50	116.30		2.41
Corporate Bd Inc	48.55	48.65		6.47
Do Accum	51.39	51.49		6.47

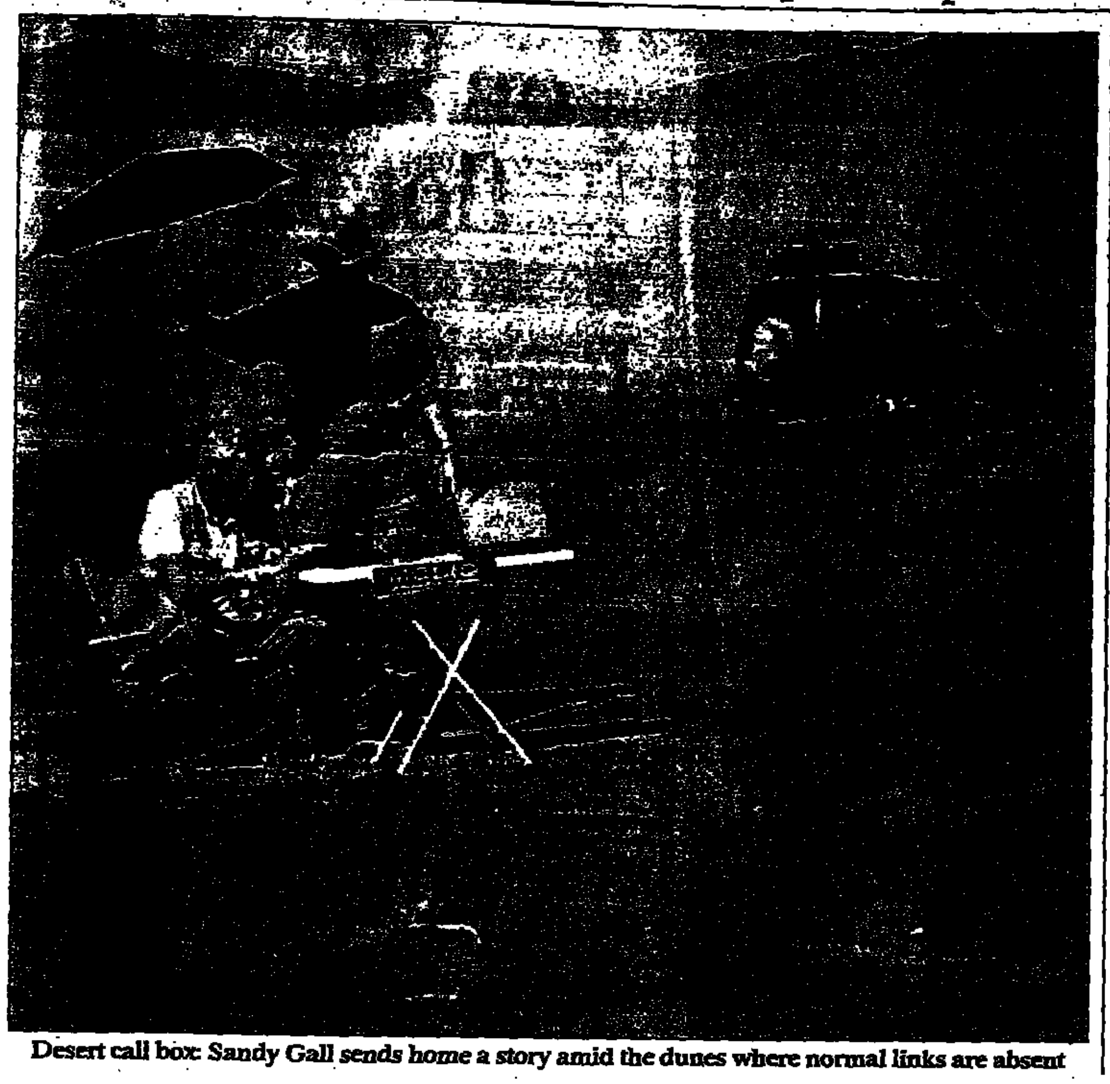
Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. .. No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge.

هكذا من الأصل

Annie Turner introduces a special report on the upsurge in advanced technology that will revolutionise dialling

International deal that gets the world connected


Desert call box: Sandy Gall *sends home a story amid the dunes where normal links are absent*

The gulf between telecommunications links in the developed and developing world is expected to diminish rapidly after the landmark accord reached last month at the World Trade Organisation meeting in Geneva.

Sixty-eight countries promised to open up their telecommunications markets to competition and agreed to abide by a common set of rules to ensure fair play. Statistics over the past seven years have shown that in countries where competition in telecommunications has been allowed, economies have grown faster by an average of more than 6 per cent.

Charlene Barshefsky, *the acting* US trade *representative who negotiated* on behalf of the US at the WTO talks, described the pact as being "one of the most important trade agreements for the 21st century". It will come into force on January 1, 1998, the same date as complete telecommunications liberalisation is due to begin in most European Union countries.

All basic telecommunications services are covered in the agreement, including voice, data, fax and radio and satellite-based services.

Ms Barshefsky claimed that it could reduce the cost of international calls by as much as 80 per cent.

In terms of market capitalisation, global telecommunications ranks behind only health care and banking as a global industry. Yet many sub-Saharan and other underdeveloped countries have fewer than a single telephone line per 100 people. At the other end of the scale, Sweden has more mobile phones per head of population *than most countries have ordinary lines.*

Negotiator: Barshefsky

The growth in *telecommunications seems* inexorable; *it grew* at twice the rate of the global economy in 1995.

The ITU reckons that by 1998 the telecommunications sector will be a $1 trillion industry worldwide and that, by the turn of the century, the combined base of conventional and mobile telephones will be around one billion.

All these figures are dizzying and, at first glance, it looks as though the revolution in telecommunications is accentuating the gulf between the developed and developing world.

The US, Western Europe and Japan become ever more reliant on telephone calls, electronic mail, faxes and the Internet. In contrast, some 43 million households are on the waiting list for telephones around the world and the average waiting time is a year.

However, things could improve rapidly *and radically in many developing countries, with such* a *number* of *countries promising* to open up their telecommunications markets to competition. Many countries have retained their national monopolies as they are normally highly profitable..

The other main factor that will help the developing world is new technology. Installing phone lines is no longer a matter of putting copper cable into the ground. It can be done far more quickly and cheaply by providing mobile networks or by using radio-based technology to provide "fixed" lines or by satellite.

According to Qualcomm of San Diego, California, by 2000 over 32 million "fixed" lines will be installed using radio technology which will rise to 529.8 million by 2010. In the next two years three competing constellations of satellites will be launched to provide phone, fax and data transmission services.

Needless to say, the world's telephone operators are rubbing *their hands* in glee at the prospect *of this* expected *massive* increase in *traffic. In particular* there has been an *unseemly scramble by* the *world's largest telcos to* form alliances to help them to address the needs of multinationals.

Jean-Yves Charlier, president of ITS, the global network integrator, says: "Multinationals want to cut costs and they see the best way of doing this to be through standardising their infrastructure and services."

This is Sandy Gall, reporting from the desert

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS

The days when intrepid explorers, and even businessmen and journalists travelling in remote areas, were cut off from all contact with the civilised world have long gone.

The introduction of mobile satellite communications systems means that contact can be maintained just about everywhere in the world and the equipment is getting smaller, lighter and simpler to operate.

A satellite phone no bigger or heavier than a notebook PC has been developed and launched commercially in a joint initiative by *BT* and Norway's Telenor, who claim that it is the world's smallest global mobile communications system.

Called *the* Mobiq and weighing *just 5lb*, it *can be used*, *say the makers*, *from* virtually any land mass. They say it works even in the Himalayas, *where previously* cellular phones have been ineffective.

Sandy Gall, the writer and broadcaster, was equipped with a Mobiq while leading an expedition across the Omani Desert.

"Naturally it doesn't provide quite the sound quality you obtain with heavier equipment," he said, "but it is terribly portable and considerably cheaper."

Inmarsat satellites positioned over the equator provide the links for Mobiq. The high power of these new-generation satellites means that less power is needed on the ground, paving the way for smaller terminals and cheaper call charges.

Users dial an international number as they would if they were using a conventional land line phone.

The Mobiq delivers digitised voice, fax and data communications including e-mail and comes as a complete package of telephone and air time.

It is operated with a removable SIM card which offers security and allows users to share telephones while retaining their billing data and storing speed dial numbers on their personal cards.

The Mobiq costs £2,400 and call charges are about £1.80 per minute. There is a monthly charge of £15 which provides five minutes of free air time.

MICHAEL KNIPE

Overseas target fuels restructure

JAPAN

A*dvanced telecommunications* play a significant part in the *structural reform programme under way in Japan to make* the country's industry highly competitive again.

At the moment, Japan lags far behind Europe and America in this field. For example, it is impossible to make a mobile telephone call from Japan to Britain.

The economic planning agency is encouraging entrepreneurship, deregulation and the development of a competitive market. Recommendations include liberalising entry into the telecommunications industry, abolishing price regulation, and working to control the monopolistic power of NTT, which supplies local and long-distance telecommunications services through a modernised and largely digital network.

NTT has been putting its efforts into rapid globalisation. Last week it was announced that it had joined *BT* in a venture with Singapore Technologies Telemedia to bid for Singapore's second telecommunications licence. This is a very significant move, as Singapore has one of the most highly developed telecommunications systems in Asia.

Last week it was announced *that* BT and Marubeni Corporation will form a joint venture in Japan to provide *domestic* and global communications services.

Network *Information* Service (NIS), in which Marubeni and BT have major *shareholdings, and BT Japan will join forces on April 1.*

Since the deregulation of the mobile *communications in*dustry in 1994, *the market in* Japan *for mobile phones and Personal Handyphone Systems (PHS) has* burgeoned. There are 26 mobile phone services on offer from foreign and domestic companies, with some 720,000 new customers a month joining almost 20 million existing customers.

PHS has more than 1.5 million subscribers to 28 PHS services, which attract 300,000 new customers each month. Combined, this means that just over 15 per cent of Japan's population of *120 million* are mobile phone *owners*.

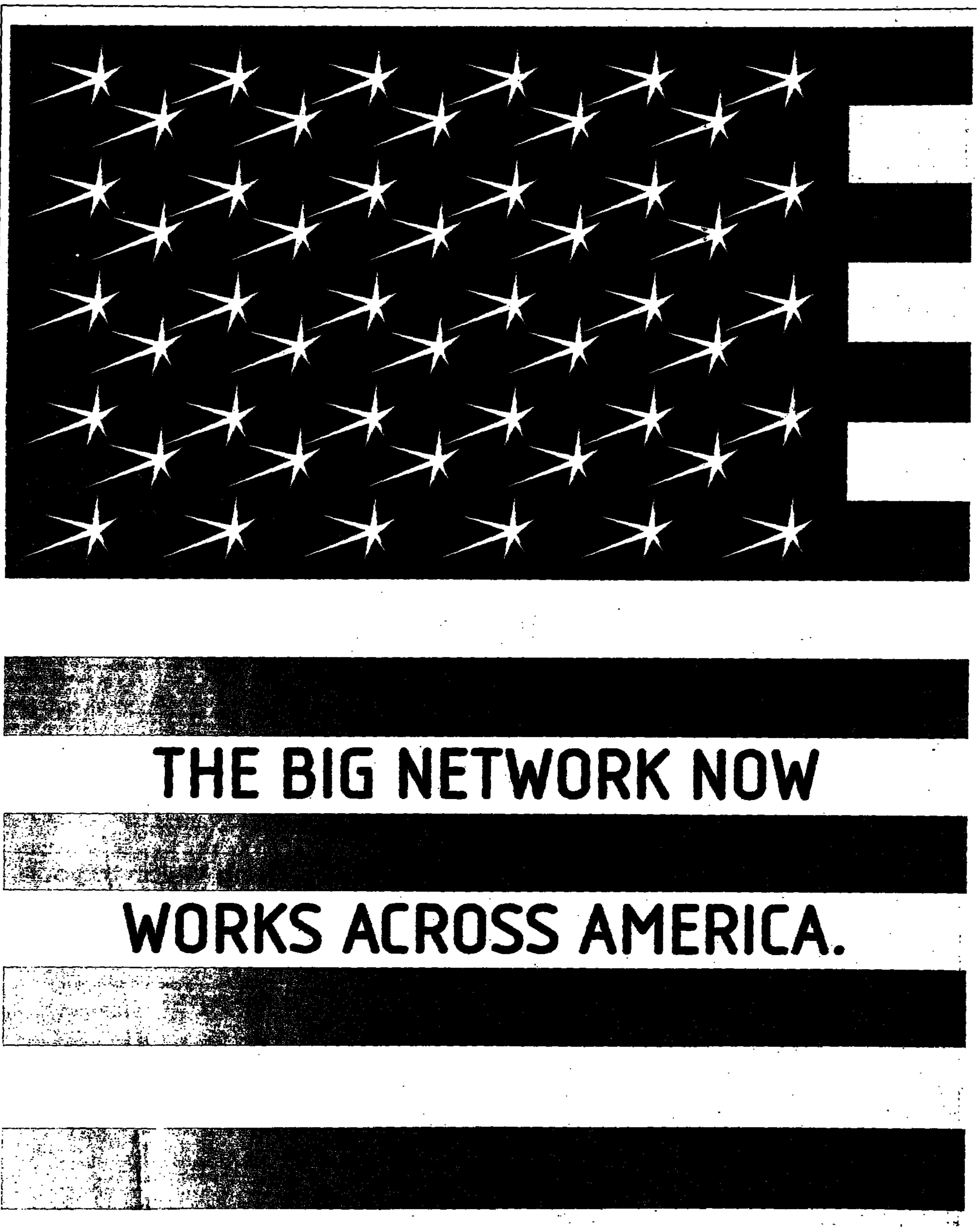
Japanese culture still remains an enigma to many outsiders. NTT is beginning to *deal with the lack of information by using the Internet's World Wide Web. The Japan Window* opened a year ago and aims to provide *information about Japan to both America and Europe.*

Content is diverse and *includes such topics as* Japanese business, economics and financial information, science and technology information and daily news features. *Japan Window* is accessed more than 16,000 times a day.

The Internet address is *http://jw.nttam.com* New sites about Japan appear each week which may be found using an online Web search engine such as Yahoo or Lycos to locate sites that include Japan in their address or heading.

A good index of Web addresses in Japan may be found on Cyberspace Japan. Internet address *http://www.csj.co.jp*

RUTH TAPLIN



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Phone future is in the cards

Annie Turner

on how plastic credit is booming in call boxes

One of the fastest growing sectors of the telecommunications market is phone cards. It has rapidly turned into a multi-million pound global industry.

There are many types of phone cards, but they have two things in common: they are simple to use and keep the cost of calls down. Now, prepaid cards predominate. They can be bought from garage forecourts to supermarkets and are in use in more than 188 countries.

But they have a significant disadvantage: they can be used only with pay phones that belong to the operator that issued the card and that are equipped to handle them.

Now, new types of cards are flooding onto the market. They work by the caller dialling an access code and the number he wants to reach. The access code automatically routes him to the card issuer's network and, after accessing a dialling tone, he can make his call.

These cards can be used with almost any phone, the only condition being that the toll free number (0800 or 0500 number in the UK) that typically is used as the access code is obtainable from the country you are in. The number 0800 has been agreed as the international standard for toll free calls, but not everywhere yet.

Another bonus of using calling cards when abroad is that you can deal with an operator who speaks your language and uses a familiar system.

Another variation is charge cards issued by your home or office service provider, so that calls made from elsewhere are simply added to your home or office phone bill or charged to your credit card. Most of the big operators issue charge cards including AT&T, BT, MCI and Sprint. They ensure that you do not pay for the use of the phone that you make the call from, but are billed at the same rate as you would have paid back at base.

This is useful in many situations, including being abroad, being able to use a friend or even a stranger's phone without it costing them, or to provide cards to children so that they have no excuse for not calling home.

Where the card is used to make calls on a telephone account, security is usually enforced with a personal identification number (PIN) for authentication before calls are connected.

Prepaid cards are available from other operators such as Swiftcall (0171-488 2001) or First Telecom (0171-572 7700) or World Telecom (0171-384 5000) in the UK who require prepayment in return for massively discounted international calls.

Subscribers' can top up the amount of airtime they have whenever they want by authorising a credit card payment to the card issuer.

In many ways, the rise of the calling card is due to greedy hotels, whose typical mark-up is 700 per cent. The hotel business is out of step with the rest of the world. The cost of calls is falling worldwide, yet hotels insist on charging a premium, provoking much resentment in their customers.

Furthermore, many business travellers turn their hotel bedrooms into mobile offices and want to be able to send and receive electronic mail and faxes, as well as pick up their voice mail and maybe access their office computer.

The cost is prohibitive and hotels do not seem to realise that if they dropped their prices the traffic volumes would rise.

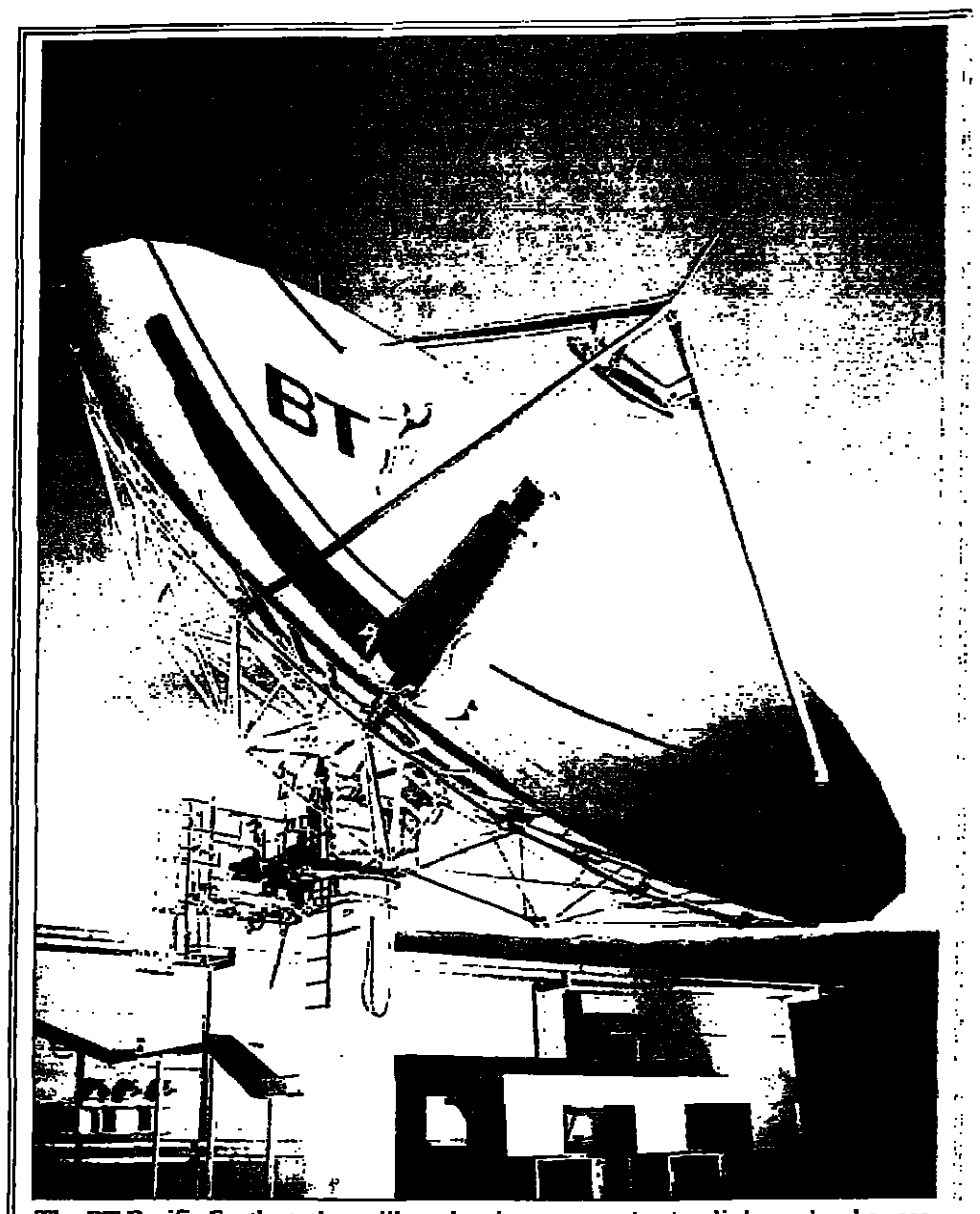
The hotel trade's most common reaction to its guests dialling a toll free number to obtain cheaper calls is to block their access or apply a surcharge on the bill.

Mobile subscribers can cut out the hotel phone system altogether, especially as the ability to use a mobile phone abroad (roaming) is becoming more commonplace.

Although roaming is expensive, it is still cheaper than hotel bills and a mobile phone can be used in conjunction with a calling card. Matthew Fernandez, sales director with London-based card producer TCS, thinks this will prove a popular option.

He believes that many companies are realising that phone cards make a superb marketing tool, and that the next step is to put phone credits on to supermarket loyalty cards.

Companies produce cards in a wide variety of brands



The BT Pacific Earth station will modernise communication links on land or sea

Uplink down under

EARTH STATION

WHEN the new £15 million Land Earth Station in Auckland goes live in May, BT is set to offer its customers a service that, apart from the polar regions, will span the whole world. *Michael Knipe writes.*

Called BT Pacific, the station will work in tandem with BT's existing land Earth stations, BT Atlantic (former Goonhilly) in the UK and BT Indian at Eik in Norway.

The station will provide the Earth link for the Inmarsat Pacific Ocean region satellite and offer a full range of communications facilities including voice, fax, telex, data and high speed data capabilities. It will also introduce applications such as video conferencing, Internet access and e-mail.

"Customers will be able to use BT anywhere in the world on land or at sea," says Rohan Chanmugam, general manager of BT's aeronautical and maritime divisons.

"We are probably not the cheapest service but ours provides the best quality and customer service. A dedicated network will maintain our service."

Competitive pricing and a single billing system are among the advantages for customers using its services worldwide at sea or on land. BT's New Zealand partner, telecommunications provider Clear, has assisted by providing the national and international links to the BT global voice and data networks. BT's communications systems for maritime and land mobile use include Inmarsat-A, B-Sat, M-Sat, C-Sat and Mobiq.

Another recent development by BT saw the introduction of B-Sat High with airtime Speed Data (HSD), an extension of the B-Sat service. It enables interconnection with the land-based Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

Gallic system on alert for flotation

France Telecom, the telecommunications monopoly owned by the French Government, will be partially privatised in May in what is expected to be the largest corporate stock offering in French history. *Joel Stratte-McClure writes.*

The announcement in Paris last week concerning the company's financial future will boost the liberalisation of the domestic telecommunications market. It also cements the French approach to the European Union-mandated open telecommunications market on January 1, 1998.

The public flotation of the company, which has been valued by financial experts at between Fr100-200 billion (£11-22 billion) is expected to generate between Fr30-50 billion (£3.5-6 billion). The French Government will keep 51 per cent of the shares to, "keep it a model of a public sector service", as one minister said. One survey indicates that *27* per cent of all Frenchmen will be interested in buying shares when selling starts on May *27* and the stock is listed on the Paris and New York markets on June 9.

Michel Bon, 52, president, is a former banker and retailer who took over the reins of France Telecom in 1995. He says: "We want the greatest number of shareholders possible."

M Bon — who is credited with taming French unions, cutting telecommunications rates, and improving overall telephone and data services — also announced financial results last week. Last year, the world's fifth largest telecommunications carrier had revenues of Fr151.3 billion (£17.25 billion), up 2.4 percent on 1995's Fr147.8 billion (£16.8 billion), and earnings of Fr2.1 billion (£240 million), versus Fr9.2 billion (£1 billion). The decline in earnings reflected charges relating to the privatisation.

The privatisation of France Telecom, which became a legal corporation on January 1 in accordance with the July 1996 Telecommunications Act, has been a key aspect of President Jacques Chirac's economic policy. The timing of the offering had been delayed until France Telecom became more competitively structured.

A few years ago the French telecommunications market was seen as less open than other European countries when it came to foreign competition. In addition, thousands of workers went on strike in 1993 to protest a change in France Telecom's state-monopoly status.

To establish a niche as a global operator France Telecom has, among its international activities, formed Global One with Deutsche Telekom AG and Sprint Corp, the American long distance operator. That venture had sales of over $500 million (£509 million) last year.

Although France Telecom is now considered the only operator in France with significant market power, a number of French and foreign players are entering the fray. Such competition raises questions about the outlook for the soon-to-be-privatised former monopoly.

"France has an image as a high-tech leader in telecommunications and France Telecom was relatively entrepreneurial for a state company," comments Mel Horwitch, formerly a professor at the Theseus Institute, a graduate school subsidised by France Telecom. "But will they remain innovative in the private sector?"

Biggest stock offer in French history

Rome gets green light at last

ITALY

ITALY has been accused of dragging its feet in implementing EU directives on the liberalisation of its telecommunications market. *John Phillips writes.*

But the Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, and Antonio Maccanico, the Minister for Posts and Telecommunications, have brought the country largely into line with EU requirements as managers at Stet, the state-run telecommunications giant, prepare for privatisation.

Stet's flagship, Telecom Italia, has been a remarkable success story compared to the bleak record of many other big public concerns in Italy.

Signor Prodi and his Treasury Minister, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, are keen to begin privatisation of Stet by the autumn to bring in much-needed revenue.

Signor Prodi appears well on the way to overcoming political objections to privatisation that have been raised by both the National Alliance and the Marxist Communist Refoundation parties.

Signor Maccanico sees liberalisation of the market as essential to show potential private investors that Telecom Italia and the other Stet companies can function in a competitive market. A government decree that takes effect this month covers at least three EU directives linked to liberalisation, bringing Italy largely into line with Brussels' requirements.

A further directive concerning satellite down links has to be approved by the Rome Parliament.

Telecom Italia's net income was up by 53 per cent last year, compared with 1995, an increase of 21.4 per cent. Sales of new services were 1.256 billion lire (£472 million) last year, up 78 per cent on 1995. Telecom Italia's sophisticated domestic and international network is designed to carry out massive traffic flows and provide a wide spectrum of innovative services.

Since Telecom Italia was established in 1994 it has opened 22 offices overseas. Through its subsidiary TeleMedia International it is active in Latin American markets, especially Chile, Bolivia, Argentina and Peru, offering multinational business customers high-quality data transmission, outsourcing and messaging services.

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Signor Maccanico reiterated on Monday that the Government still plans to hold a special competition for the allocation of the third mobile telephone production licence in Italy, following those issued to TIM and Omnitel.

A consortium called PCN that hopes to obtain the new cellular licence includes British Telecom, Albacom, the Banca Nazionale di Lavoro and Mediaset, part of the empire of the media mogul Silvio Berlusconi.

An American company, GTE, last week withdrew its interest in the consortium, blaming what it saw as the slow pace of liberalisation of the telecommunications market in Italy.

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Red tape holds back Chinese development

Ruth Taplin examines how Western firms are reluctant to invest when long term profits are not guaranteed

It can cost £17 per page to send a fax from China and telephone calls are as much as £1.57 a minute, because mainland China's telecommunications are still in their development stage and have been hampered by bureaucracy.

There is also a lack of understanding by the Government that Western companies need to be confident of making long-term profits before they will invest.

China is burdened by an enormous population and wide disparities in wealth between the wealthy east coast and poor country areas.

However, there are signs that changes are occurring slowly. The reintegration of Hong Kong may have a great impact as telecommunication links between China and Hong Kong are plentiful.

China's Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) regulates all issues concerned with telecommunications. Above the MPT are the policy making body and the legislative body, respectively the State Council and the People's Congress. In wireless communication and large scale projects, the State Regulatory Committee and the State Planning Commission are also involved in key decision making.

Although China Unicom was launched in 1994, and recently began cellular services, the MPT has impeded its progress by regulating prices to such low levels that it is difficult for Unicom to expand. Driving the level of return down has also deterred foreign investment and stifled competition.

China has further stated that it will not open its telecommunications market fully to foreign companies because of the immaturity of its market, which may delay its entry into the World Trade Organisation.

The country does not allow foreign companies to operate telecoms networks in its domestic market, but has allowed them to sell equipment in China if the foreign firms manufacture locally and transfer technology.

Yet, China will allow Hong Kong to continue operating its own telecommunications network after the takeover in July. Hong Kong and southern China have the most frequently used telecoms networks in the world.

This is exemplified by the extent of illegal mobile phone use from neighbouring Guangdun province, which is seriously disrupting air traffic control in Hong Kong.

The face of new China: telecommunications are becoming more accessible to a backward population as the economy there develops

This year, mobile phone subscribers will exceed ten million and they will reach twenty million by the year 2000. The Beijing Telecommunications Administration recently signed an agreement for a "One-Stop-Shop" service offered by Telstra and another carrier which provides a high-speed service within and across national borders and with a single source of ordering, billing, fault-reporting and customer support.

China's first large-scale Internet communication network went on line last December. The Japanese company NEC, in co-operation with the Sino Information Centre, provided the host computer and all the software, valued at one billion yen. There are expected to be 20,000 users by the end of this year, and 80,000 by 2000.

The village telegraph office, which has hardly changed since the 19th century, will not change immediately.

State planners have said that prolonged and sustained investment is needed in these impoverished sectors.

In urban areas, the telegraph system has been rapidly replaced by mobile and fixed telephones and fax machines. Perhaps the most surprising development has been the agreement recently signed between China and Taiwan, allowing an underwater cable to be built across the Taiwan Strait linking the rival countries.

Facsimile machines are expected to soar to ten million owners by the year 2000 from only 900,000 last year. There are 20 fax machine manufacturers in China and most of them assemble imported parts. Domestic production can only keep up with a fraction of demand.

Companies from all over the world are active in China. Japan's NTT has established its first joint venture in China with Shanghai NTT Communications Engineering, which will direct and train in matters related to the management and operation of the cellular telephone industry.

Ericsson has signed an expansion contract with the Shandong PTA. The $30.7 million (£19.5 million) contract will expand the Shandong network to a total capacity of 500,000 subscribers.

Potential is still vast. The Chinese Government has plans to expand its telephone capacity to 70 million by the year 2000.

Big players hit downturn after deregulation

THE UNITED STATES

It probably seemed like a good idea at the time — to funnel almost $5 million (£3.2 million) into the campaign war chests of strategically placed Congressmen and Senators while they were crafting a massive Bill aimed at deregulating the American telecommunications industry.

But now, more than a year after the Bill became law, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company must be having second thoughts. While its competitors are doing well under the new rules, AT&T is facing declining profits and share values.

Though it was the largest single contributor, AT&T was outbid collectively by the local telephone companies in the quest for Congressional favours. These gave more than $10 million (£6.3 million) to politicians in the five years leading up to the passage of the Bill and it is they who have reaped the rewards.

In theory, the Telecommunications Bill set out to create a level playing field. Long distance telephone companies would be permitted to compete in local markets, while the seven Baby Bells and GTE would be able to gain access to the long distance and international networks. The bill also sought to promote competition among cable television companies, and raised the limit on the number of radio and television stations that broadcast companies could own.

In practice, however, local loyalties have made it hard for AT&T to penetrate the Baby Bell markets, while price wars with MCI, Sprint, and a swarm of upstart small long-distance providers have nibbled away at its main business. Meanwhile, other American companies are looking overseas for dividends, seeing opportunities in forthcoming European deregulation. Nynex and Viatel have both been expanding rapidly, and have now joined with British Telecom, MCI and others as signatories to the Fiberoptic Link Around the Globe (FLAG) agreement, which will connect three continents and 12 countries.

Mergers and acquisitions in the American industry are abounding, with the $20 billion (£12.4 billion) deal between BT and MCI representing the tip of the iceberg as companies consolidate their positions.

The Holy Grail to which many are steering is the provision of "one-stop shopping" for the consumer, embracing the provision of television, telephone, and computer data services from one source.

The technology now exists which will make this possible, and the Telecommunications Bill has stripped away most legal obstacles.

Yet for all the frenzied activity on the stock exchange, the American telecommunications revolution seems to have had little impact on the consumer.

It may be ten years or more, say the experts, before there is any good news for the man in the street.

This comes as no surprise to the average American. It was, after all, the corporations and not the consumers who paid their political dues to Congress. Except, as AT&T discovered, there is such a thing as Murphy's Law — what can go wrong, will.

BILL NORRIS

Looking ahead to open market

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA could find itself dealing with two massive telecommunication stock market flotations this year as both of the country's telephone carriers seek a listing on the Australian stock exchange, *Rachel Bridge writes.*

First is likely to be the partial privatisation of Telstra, formerly Australia Telecom, which the Government hopes will raise at least A$8 billion (£3.8 billion). Despite fierce opposition in the Federal Parliament, the Government narrowly succeeded in getting approval for the sale and is hoping to sell off a third of the group.

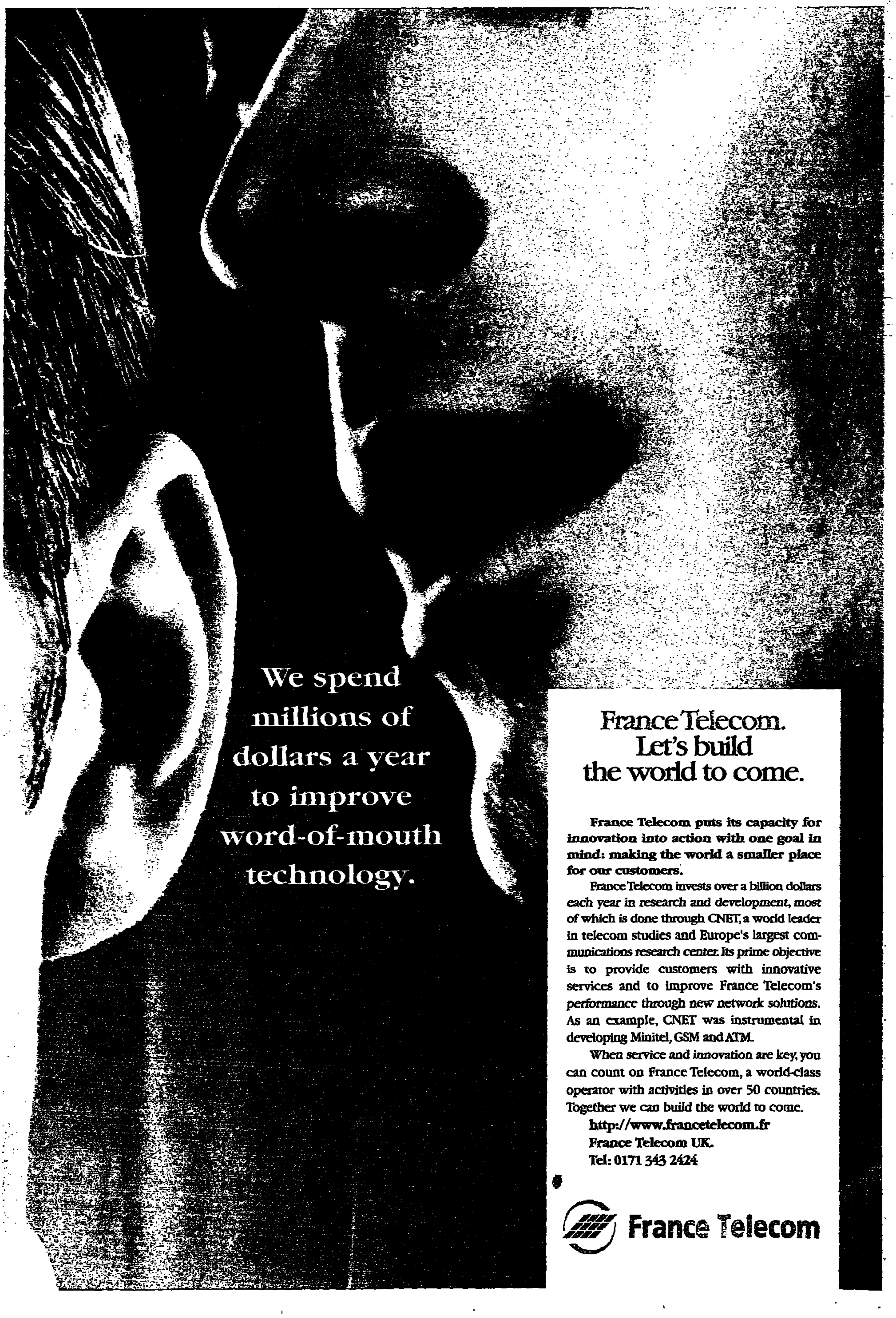
The country's second carrier Optus, in which Cable & Wireless and BellSouth Corporation each have a 24.5 per cent share, is also hoping to make its stock market debut this year provided it is able to resolve litigation over its pay-TV arm, Optus Vision, in time. Analysts say that up to 51 per cent of the company, including a 25 per cent stake currently held by local industrial group Mayne Nickless, may be floated, raising upwards of A$2 billion (£952 million).

The two public listings coincide with a year of upheaval for the Australian industry, which is set to be completely deregulated from July 1.

The Government took the first step towards deregulating the market in 1991, when it allowed Optus to begin offering long distance calls in competition with Telstra and enabled the UK's Vodafone to become the country's third mobile phone operator.

This time, however, the entire market, worth A$20 billion (£9.5 billion), will be opened up to outside competitors.

Communications Minister Richard Alston is hoping that competition will translate into lower bills for consumers.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■ THEATRE 1

Hurlyburly, a wild portrait of sleazy-smart California, impresses in (and out of) the Old Vic

■ THEATRE 2

Vivid dialogue but little coherence in Black Mime Theatre's *Mourning Song*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 3

Broadway may be musicals-led, but serious plays are flourishing on New York's smaller stages

■ TOMORROW

The Bard gets updated: read Geoff Brown on *Romeo and Juliet* and the other new films

THEATRE: David Rabe's fine play defies a bomb scare. Plus energetic confusion and a short but sweet revival

Out of the jungle into the park

Hurlyburly
Old Vic

Was the curse of Macbeth responsible? After all, David Rabe says in a wild, woolly programme-note that he took the title of his wonderfully wild if *sometimes* woolly portrait of the Californian drink, drug and divorce set from Shakespeare's most chilling opening scene. One witch tells the others she will meet them "when the hurlyburly's done, when the battle's lost and won", adding that the rendezvous will be "the heath". Well, a bomb-scare meant that the audience ended up banished from the Old Vic and gathered round a bench and a tree opposite the theatre. *Hurlyburly* was finally done, not on a heath, but in a tiny, grotty park normally occupied by winos.

It was impossible not to admire the resilience of Rupert Graves, Susannah Doyle and Daniel Craig as they defied the din of the traffic and ensured that we who were standing or kneeling round them did not miss Rabe's sad, funny denouement. But then the play would be worth attention if it had been relegated to the bottom of a plague-pit in Mortlake. It has its *implausibilities and pretensions*, but it is still hard to understand why so energetic a piece has taken 13 years to cross the Atlantic.

Rabe's best-known plays — *Sticks and Bones, Streamers, The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel* — involve the human disasters caused by Vietnam. *Hurlyburly* is different, yet not wholly different. Its portrait of sleazy-smart California leaves you feeling you have been parachuted into a subtropical war zone variously populated by the lost, frightened, callous, angry, vicious and reptilian. Its people are members of the movie subculture, and usually high on something, whether it is coke, booze, sex, psychobabble, narcissism, misogyny or paranoia. They inhabit the Hollywood jungle, and the Hollywood jungle inhabits them.

In so far as there is a plot, it involves Graves's Eddie, a casting director, and Andy Serkis's Phil, the troubled ex-con he tantalises with promises of movie roles. It is hard to believe that two such different men would share the time of day, let alone long chats and, it seems, the odd woman: but maybe that is Rabe's point. Eddie is adrift in the Californian shallows and threw away his moral compass ages ago. It amuses and vaguely reassures him to collect people: the runaway girl a chum brings home as a sexual "care package"; the tart he watched performing fellatio on a film star in front of her child; Phil, behind whose tattoos seethes a murderous temper.

Does Rabe convince us that somewhere inside Eddie is a serious man appalled by the neutron bomb, political corruption and the frivolity of TV and film? Not really. But he has written a role that the excellent Graves invests with a nice mix of scorn, ennui and fastidious self-absorption. Indeed, Wilson Milam's cast is as strong as I recall Walken, Keitel, Ivey, Weaver and William Hurt being in 1984. Serkis brilliantly catches Phil's baffled violence; Stephen Dillane and Daniel Craig bring Eddie's friends to shrugging, sneering life; and, though the men's roles are bigger and better than the women's, Elizabeth McGovern finds emotional need as well as brittleness in his girlfriend. They all deserved the standing ovation they received in that funny little park. They had served the play and the theatrical gods well.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

Casting director Eddie (Rupert Graves) brandishes the bottle at Andy Serkis's Phil and Susannah Doyle's Bonnie in *Hurlyburly*

Much ado about not much

LONDON FRINGE

MARILYN KINGWILL

Death and the maidens: Tracy Bickley and Mai Yu in Black Mime Theatre's all-female *Mourning Song*

PLENTY of energy has gone into **Mourning Song** (Cochrane), and plenty of thought, but ... The thought has been *directed towards indicating* and linking various experiences of distress, mostly to do with death and suffered by women, and the energy of the five female performers of Black Mime Theatre is displayed for all to see. And yet.

The links are not strong; that is to say, the cast switch rapidly from playground bullies to London tarts to grieving mothers to office cleaners, but no great gain is derived from this expertise. In truth, much confusion comes of it: what are the tarts doing here, for instance? And though the programme insists that one of the three stories presents a racist killing, no indication of this appears on the stage.

This is a pity because when the devised texts — coordinated and directed by Denise Wong — concentrate on one story for more than half a minute, there are vivid and effective incidents. Darren, the over-mothered and bullied schoolboy, nerves himself to step into a bath (represented by his mother's arms) and lowers his head below the water surface. This is calmly, simply, sorrowfully shown. Two staves serve as a coffin; the pallbearers turn through a right angle, lower the staves and are immediately standing at a graveside.

Lisa Vandy's design gives us a shallow semicircle of upright canes, which leaves a decently spacious area for the company to roll and jump and tumble. But above these hangs a cluster of screens, assorted in shape and fracturing the images projected on them. Look at us, they seem to say, aren't we artful?

The company wear baggy jeans bulging with knee pads under purple sweaters bulging with elbow pads. They grin, fight and talk in other tongues. The third story tells of a Vietnamese boat-person who becomes a cleaner in the West and dies. But her experience on the boat is muddled and too little is made of her life in exile.

Neither did I extract much information about preparing oneself for death, nor even what to do when a son, partner or mother dies. Sometimes the five move or sing in unison, sometimes not. Sometimes the contrast between those who are moving and those who remain tensely motionless creates a fine tableau. At other times the contrasts create a fine nothing in particular. So much energy, dense but undetermined.

At the Orange Tree Room, **The Outside** is short (barely half an hour) and can be simply summarised. But Susan Glaspell's style of writing leaves a sense that just around the corners of what she reveals lie untold mighty dramas. If she had so wished, you feel, she could have built the story of the drowned sailor, or the silent maid, or the misogynist New Yorker, into the sort of slow-beating, heart-churning play that was to bring fame to Eugene O'Neill.

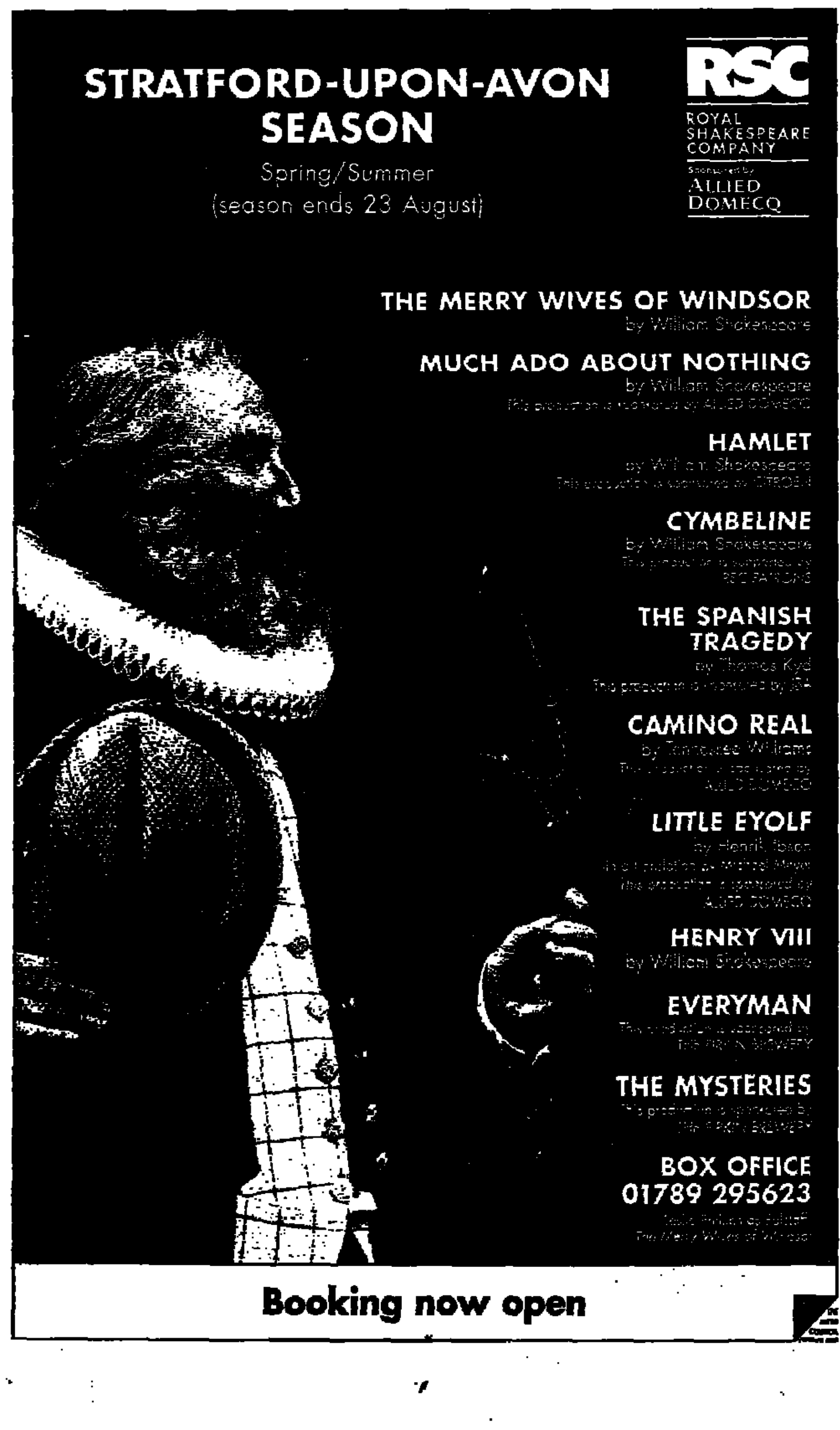
In 1917, when this play was written, she and O'Neill were organising the Provincetown Players on Cape Cod. The programme prints a map of the area, and even if this is not strictly necessary, it is interesting to see how the northern extremity of the cape bends like an arm to protect the little town. This is how Allie Mayo, the taciturn maid, describes it, but the sand dunes that bar the ocean are themselves a threat. Woods hold the moving hills from burying Provincetown but dour Mrs Patrick finds a grim satisfaction in watching the sands slipping down over the trees.

Here is a landscape ripe for use as symbol, where even the man-made features are put to use: Mrs Patrick's new home was once a life-saving station but is now disused. She wishes to cut herself off from something painful but is eventually told that this is cutting her off from life.

Glaspell's dramatic method here is strikingly different from the ampler style of her slightly later *Inheritors*, still playing in the Orange Tree's main house across the road. The first characters to appear are three sea-farers. I cannot identify them more clearly; former sailors, perhaps, fishermen, life-savers. Paul Williamson's Captain occupies almost half the play trying to resuscitate a drowned man in front of us, but this seemingly indirect entry into the pasts of Jan Carey's Mrs Patrick and her maid in fact takes us boldly to the very heart of it.

In a short play an author cannot afford to hang around, but it is a mark of Martin Wylde's straightforward direction, and especially the quality of Anna Kirke's performance as the stricken Allie, that her line, "That boy — there — his face — uncovered something," sends a shiver of excitement up the spine. We learn only a little about them: but the sense of lives stretching out beyond the play is strong. There is a Portuguese sailor who might be here just to make a sign of the cross over the body. I kept thinking of the stories of Katharine Mansfield, with the sense they give of being fragments of life, brightly, briefly illumined.

JEREMY KINGSTON



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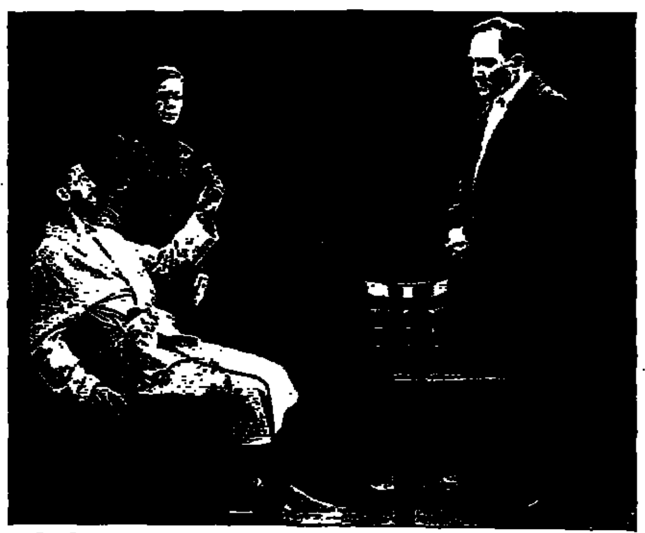
NEW YORK THEATRE

WHILE New York waits for a slew of musicals to open in April, serious drama is percolating at small houses. Downtown at the New York Theatre Workshop, David Rabe's **A Question of Mercy** looks at assisted suicide, while midtown at the American Place Theater, Jonathan Reynolds satirises liberalism in **Stonewall Jackson's House**.

The latter, produced on a shoestring and directed by Jamie Richards, is long overdue and wickedly funny. Henry S. Dunn has designed a panelled highway billboard whose segments revolve to show painted interior rooms, as a black docent (Lisa Louise Longford) leads two white couples on a tour of the Confederate general's Virginia home. "Terrible thing, slavery," Ron Faber's craggy-faced Barney solemnly intones. "We're from Ohio, so we know." Beguiled by Barney's idyllic description of his farm, the docent suddenly asks, "Can I be your slave?" Then the second couple, from Alabama, decide they want to be his slaves, too. *Exeunt omnes.*

The scene turns out to be from an imagined production of a play under consideration by a regional theatre. Dunn's panels open to show a rehearsal room where a debate rages. Racism is only one of the charges. "It's mean-spirited," declares Mimi Bensinger's bony, bleached-blonde Gabriela, the co-artistic director. Her marshmallowy husband Oz (Faber) sees some merit: "The play is about the need for a welfare state."

When Longford's eloquent dramaturge Tracy reveals that she is the author, and not R. E. Rodgers's bullish "playwright", who has been loping around the room countering their barrage, the lefties are shocked. Tracy argues forcefully but in vain against their paternalism and sacred cows. One may laugh helplessly at the colour and gender-blind revision ultimately forced on her, with Rodgers in drag declaring that "Mrs Beethoven ghost-wrote the Seventh Symphony while Ludwig was away celebrating Kwanzaa."



Life class: *A Question of Mercy* ponders assisted suicide

But there is nothing funny about the way Tracy's liberal mentors keep her on their leash.

A Question of Mercy is based on an essay, and although the title hints at the author's bias, Rabe offers a complex portrait. Zach Grenier's stolid Dr Robert Chapman is approached by an acquaintance, Stephen Spinella's deferential Thomas Ames, with a desperate plea. Thomas's lover Anthony is suffering with Aids. They want the doctor to "intervene". Specifically, Anthony asks Chapman to coach him on how to take some contraband pills. Faced with Juan Carlos Hernandez's charm and politesse as Anthony, any doctor might overcome his physician's "consoling formality" and regard himself as "an instrument, like a forceps or a scalpel". Chapman even agrees to administer an injection if Anthony fails.

Despite a script peppered with monologues and phone calls but little action, Douglas Hughes's production gathers momentum and fascinates. The principals, who include Veanne Cox as a friend of the gay men, sip tea in front of an immense, red, Rothko-like painting as they discuss alibis and autopsies. The tension builds like a crime thriller in which you root for the victim's death. These are civilised people, Rabe suggests.

There are a few problems. A comic doorman grows tedious, and Cox's friend has the warmth of a prison matron. But Spinella brings out the poignancy in a character who is irritatingly fretful. And Hernandez, seated next to a slide projector clicking away pictures of Anthony's life, makes the suicide attempt harrowing. Death, it turns out, [illegible] not for the civilised.

EDWARD KARAM

Dazzling pitch for a whale of a movie

IRISH THEATRE

Catalpa
Gate Theatre, Dublin

THE MOVIE pitch, at least since Robert Altman deployed it with such satirical precision in *The Player*, is approaching the status of an independent literary genre. In Donal O'Kelly's *Catalpa*, the pitch, that one-shot attempt to reach inside the heads of those with the power to get a film made, attains new heights, as a bedsit-bound cineaste flies us through his dream movie in a marathon of dazzling theatrical storytelling.

O'Kelly, best known for his part in the film version of Roddy Doyle's *The Van*, stars in a piece (which he also wrote) as Matthew Kid, the black sheep of an Irish family. Too unruly for the professions, too haughty to brown-nose the Hollywood types, he seems to have blown his chance to have his movie "greenlighted" and has returned home disconsolate.

This little bit of exposition is put across with breathtaking speed in the play's opening moments. This leaves the remaining two hours or so to O'Kelly's cinemascope telling of the story of the *Catalpa*, a whaling ship secretly re-routed to Western Australia by Irish-American activists to rescue six 19th-century Irish freedom fighters incarcerated there.

The story certainly has epic scope — love, sex and death on two continents and an ocean — but there is no doubt that its most colossal aspect is O'Kelly's performance. Naturally, O'Kelly plays all the human characters in the piece, but he does much more. With the help of live keyboard playing by Trevor Knight, he metamorphoses into a squawking seabird introducing a budget-busting helicopter shot, or a whale and her calf exploding from the ocean's depths. A curtain billows into the sail of a whaling ship, and O'Kelly begins a series of changes that see him acting and sounding like every beast and gadget that a 19th-century sailor might meet.

The drama is punctuated by references to the shot to be employed, but while acknowledging the powerful language of cinema, O'Kelly and the director, Bairbre Ní Chaoimh, coyly stage something to rival any special effects Hollywood could offer. The contrast between megabuck industrial light and magic and this single actor's ability to conjure whole oceans from a sheet and a pillow is never overstated, but never less than glaring.

LUKE CLANCY

■ JAZZ 1

Justice for Billy Strayhorn: high time that Duke Ellington's collaborator is given his due

■ JAZZ 2

Fats Waller is only moderately well served by a new touring show of his songs

THE TIMES

ARTS

■ POP

Sex appeal, of the teenybop variety, is the main plus for 3T, the new Jackson family group

■ RISING STAR

At 23, Justin Meissner is being paid to do what he enjoys most — dance with the Royal Ballet

Power behind Duke's throne

JAZZ: Clive Davis on the short elusive life of Billy Strayhorn, Duke Ellington's pianist and a fine composer in his own right

Everyone knows that *Take The A-Train* is a Duke Ellington tune, just as *Take Five* is Dave Brubeck's. Well, no. *Take Five*, that most mis-attributed of all modern jazz themes, was actually written by Brubeck's elegant saxophonist, Paul Desmond. Similarly, *Take The A-Train* was the work of one of the most interesting but least familiar of jazz composers, Billy Strayhorn — a pianist who spent most of his career in the all-consuming shadow of his friend and employer, Edward Kenney Ellington.

Strayhorn died of cancer in 1967, aged only 51. In the three decades since then the most evocative of his melodies — *Chelsea Bridge*, *Blood Count*, *Isfahan* — have become as respected a part of the canon as his mentor's own pieces. His magical ballad *Lush Life*, popularised by Nat King Cole, is a sliver of wee small hours melancholia worthy of Cole Porter.

The last five years have seen the emergence of what amounts to a cottage industry, producing a flurry of recorded tributes by artists as diverse as his confidante Lena Horne and the saxophonist Joe Henderson. Yet, considering his role at the centre of the pre-eminent jazz orchestra, he has remained a stubbornly elusive presence.

His anonymity owed something to Ellington's acquisitive personality. Though the bandleader once described him as "my right arm, my left arm, all the eyes in the back of my head", Ellington (like many a bandleader) was not always scrupulous in acknowledging his collaborators' contributions. But Strayhorn's anonymity also seems to have been the protective camouflage of a homosexual and café-society bon viveur who preferred life away from the public gaze.

With the arrival of David Hajdu's biography, *Lush Life* (Granta, £16.99), many of the gaps are at last being filled. An editor on the American magazine *Entertainment Weekly*, Hajdu has done a prodigious job in tracking down his subject's friends, acquaintances and colleagues. If the musical analysis is under-developed (it would have been interesting, for instance, to have learnt much more about Strayhorn's techniques and his avowed interest in classical forms), Hajdu has delivered an absorbing and well-rounded human portrait.

John Lewis, pianist with the ever-popular, quasi-baroque Modern Jazz Quartet, recalls his first impression on hearing a Strayhorn arrangement: "It sounded as if Stravinsky were a jazz musician." Ravel and Debussy were a more explicit influence on Strayhorn, whose formal training acted as a counterweight to the intuitive genius of the self-taught Ellington.

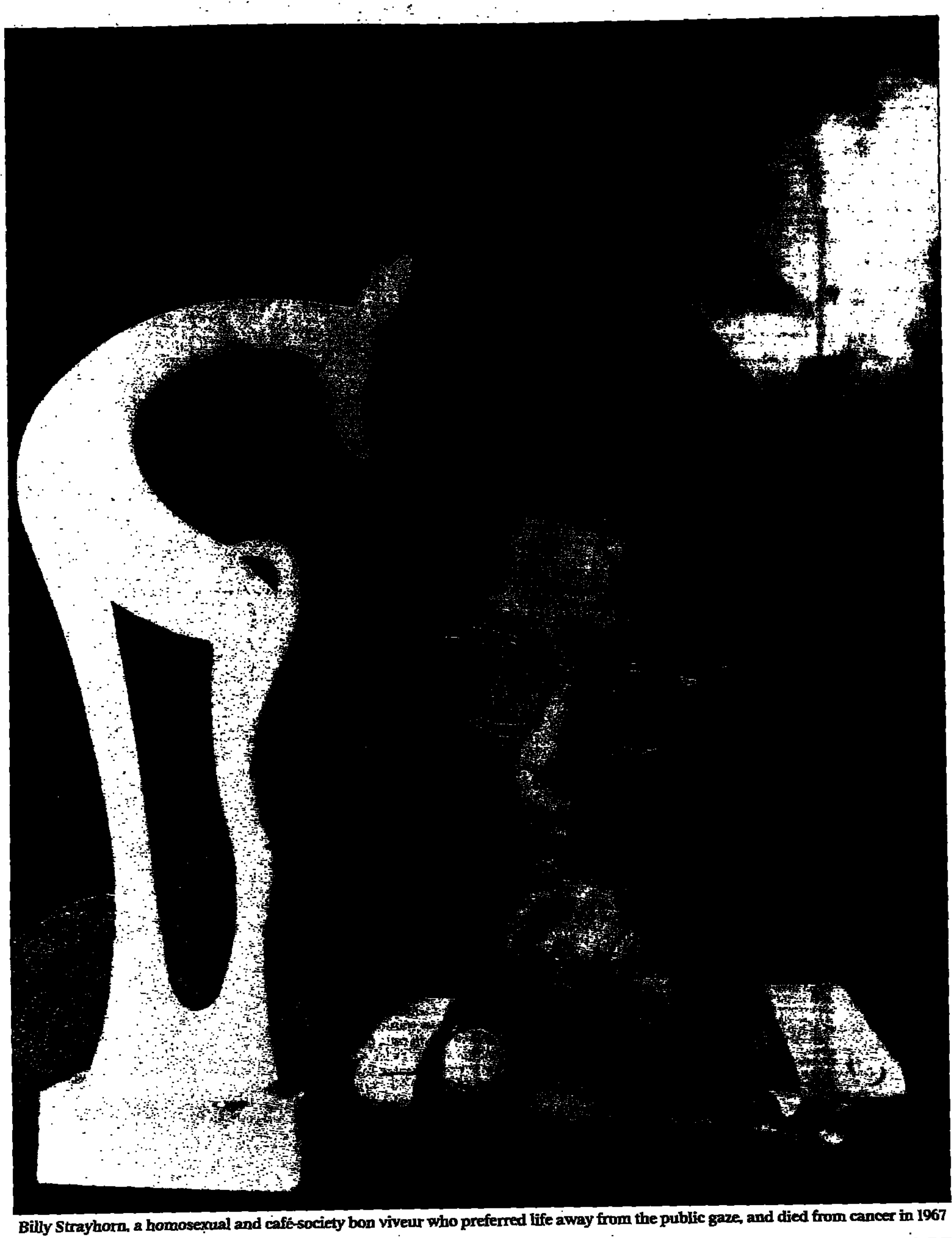
While the latter occupied himself with the gruelling business of writing and keeping an unusually creative big band on the road between studio engagements, Strayhorn — a much less driven individual — acted as his cultural antennae, reading the books that the older man never had the leisure or inclination to read, listening to the composers that he had no time to listen to.

Hajdu sensitively sketches the pressures arising from the conflict between creative independence and material comfort, between Strayhorn's relative indolence and Ellington's boundless energy. The very fact that Strayhorn belonged to both a racial and sexual minority must have contributed to the drinking that undermined his health.

In striving to win approval from the "serious" music establishment, jazz fans sometimes turn their heroes into plaster saints, incapable of sounding a sour note or writing a dull tune. The most engaging of Ellington's recent biographers, James Lincoln Collier, went against the grain by speculating that, for all his unarguable talents, Strayhorn's penchant for luxuriant textures may have undermined the "masculine leanness" of Ellington's best work: *Take The A-Train*, after all, was not a typical Strayhorn piece.

It is a question that Hajdu does not explore. Nor does he linger over the question of whether *Such Sweet Thunder* and the other suites that accounted for so much of the orchestra's output in the postwar years were a match for the earlier miniatures.

Whether Strayhorn would have flourished away from Ellington's influence is impossible to answer. The rare 1961 solo album, *The Peaceful Side of Billy Strayhorn* — recently reissued on Capitol — showcases some of his most memorable themes, including *Passion Flower* and *Something To Live For*, but the project is marred by lightweight piano playing and an horrendously schmaltzy choral accompaniment on *Lush Life*. The Duke's men were never quite the same away from his court; Strayhorn was probably no exception.



Billy Strayhorn, a homosexual and café-society bon viveur who preferred life away from the public gaze, and died from cancer in 1967

Orders from the top brass

IF EVER there was a musician at the height of his powers, it is American saxophonist Joe Lovano. Long queues outside, and a standing-room-only crowd inside Ronnie Scott's gave some indication of the reputation he has built over the past decade, but it was the quality of the attention focused on him once he stepped on the stage — a fierce expectation, an almost palpable determination to savour every note he played — that marked the occasion as something special.

Previous Lovano visits have seen him contributing his cultured, smoky tenor either to the punchy, rock-tinged jazz of guitarist John Scofield or to the subtle interweaving improvisations of drummer Paul Motian's trio alongside the flickering guitar of Bill Frisell, but for this residency he placed himself firmly in the spotlight by fronting a local rhythm section: pianist Jonathan Gee, bassist Steve Rose and drummer Winston Clifford.

Joe Lovano
Ronnie Scott's

His choice of material, too, demonstrated his determination to leave his individual mark on the proceedings. Given that he was fronting an unfamiliar band, and that his latest album is a selection of Sinatra standards, he might have been forgiven for concentrating on the likes of *Chicago* and *I'm a Fool to Want You* all evening. In the event, he began with a tricky original, *Topsy Turvy*, and followed it with another, *Birds of Springtimes Gone By*.

Lovano's Sinatra project was touched on with an almost reverent version of Jimmy Van Heusen's ballad, *Imagination*, but by then his audience was clearly mesmerised by his unique tonal qualities rather than by his set list.

Few saxophonists bring such a variety of textures to their playing; Lovano will state a slow theme with an affectingly breathy, singing purity, then proceed to explore its possibilities by utilising everything from fruity warbles and bleary honks to rasping high-note keening, all unaffectedly woven into an intensely melodic improvisation. He is also supremely adaptable, bringing an appropriately quirky, dignified bluesiness to a Monk tune one minute, then swooning rapturously through Mingus's achingly beautiful *Duke Ellington's Sound of Love* the next.

Lovano is, in short, the compleat saxophonist, and the long, warm ovation he received at the conclusion of his set (a compliment generally restricted at this club to Betty Carter) was richly deserved.

CHRIS PARKER

Footsteps of the fat man

ALTHOUGH he tends to live on in the public imagination as a rumbustious vocalist and the leader of a hard-swinging band called the Rhythm, Fats Waller was also a prodigiously talented composer and pianist. Any tribute package needs to take into account all the aspects of the man, including his outsize personality, if it is to be anything like a three-dimensional portrait.

Keith Smith's current touring package scores highly in Martin Litton's exquisite renditions of Fats's solo pieces, his strong striding left-hand and filigree right-hand decorations vividly bringing back to life pieces such as *Handful of Keys* and *Smashing Thirds*. Unusually, instead of playing these completely unaccompanied, Litton chose to work with the subtle drumming of John Armitage, perhaps unintentionally evoking the spirit of Waller's *London Suite*, the highlight of Fats's 1939 visit to Britain which was cut with just piano and drums.

Litton is also the heartbeat of Smith's quintet, which satisfyingly recreated much of the repertoire of the Rhythm. Clarinettist Trevor Whiting, who played as a teenage prodigy in the trio of Waller's exact contemporary, pianist Art Hodes, brought just the right Creole inflections into the band. Smith's burnished lead trumpet, occasionally flurrying into the high register, evoked the timing and tone of many of Waller's own brass players, and the group's choice of tunes showed just what an accomplished and wide-ranging composer Waller was, especially in the seldom-heard *Prisoner of Love*.

Fabulous Fats
Stables, Wavendon

The task of trying to convey Waller's singing and outsize stage presence fell to Chicagoan singer Marilyn Middleton-Pollock, and although physically well-qualified, the daunting nature of capturing Fats's ebullient personality made this the least successful element of the programme. Middleton-Pollock's expertise centres on the vaudeville tradition, epitomised by her BBC radio series on the subject. Waller's roots were in this same tradition, touring with a singer called Katie Krippen back in the early 1920s, and his hundreds of recordings are steeped in the world of travelling revues. Yet somehow, Waller's real vocal warmth and humour slipped through the net.

Middleton-Pollock's enthusiasm, vigorous movement and elaborate stage costumes failed to make up for consistently poor intonation. Waller may have lampooned many of the songs he sang, but even fortified by the gin bottle, his innate sense of pitch never failed, and it was his very musicality that made his satires successful.

ALYN SHIPTON

Lust lost in space

OPERA

The Rake's Progress
Festival Hall

STRAVINSKY'S good-humoured opera took some time to convince that it was big enough to fill the expanses of the Festival Hall, even with the audience clustered on the lower level. Barry Banks proved a tentative and reluctant Rake in Act I, showing insufficient relish at the prospect of the fleshpots of London. His small, neatly produced voice was scarcely made for a house this size and too many of the ironies of the Auden-Kallman libretto were obscured. He came into his own during Rakewell's final delirium when, cursed with insanity, the sweeter tones of Adonis take over Tom's body and mind. But the role demands a heftier and more beguiling tenor.

His sweetheart, Anne Trulove, also needs a soprano who can provide much more than the gentle tones of fidelity. Stravinsky, after all, wrote the part for Schwarzkopf and provided her with a bravura aria at the end of Act I. Joan Rodgers, now with plenty of backbone to the voice, took this piece in properly flamboyant style. At other times she was careful to keep Anne as a demure country girl, although the final lullaby to poor, crazed Tom was a bumpy ride.

Around them there were plenty of confident performances, starting with William Shimell's suave Nick Shadow, who conceals all malice until the final, fatal game of chance. Robin Leggate seized on the auctioneer Sellem, a gift to any tenor with good diction and a touch of the showman. Jane Henschel's Baba was also full of zest. Susan Bickley's Mother Goose came equipped with a feather boa used to lasson Tom as he is taken off for sexual instruction.

Andrew Davis, an old hand at this work from Glyndebourne, conducted the BBC Symphony with a featherlight, lyrical touch. The soloists deserve credit for dispensing with scores and playing up to one another whenever possible. Two Festival Hall suits solemnly pinned crayoned drawings, denoting change of scene and other essentials such as Mother Goose's cuckoo clock and Shadow's bread machine, on boards either side of the stage. These were the work of Davis Jr. He did not get a credit in the programme, but papa gave him a curtain call and the audience gave him a big hand, perhaps without knowing why. It might not have been Hockney's *Rake*, but young Master Davis has a few years to go yet.

Joan Rodgers: Trulove

JOHN HIGGINS

Heirs apparent

POP

3T
Wembley Arena

AND the Jackson Five begat 3T. This is a serious musical dynasty: the brothers Taj, Taryll and TJ are the sons of Tito Jackson, which makes them the nephews of Michael, "the king of pop". The lineage has hardly been a hindrance to their young career. Uncle Mike signed them to his record label, produced their album, sang on their hit single and has been on hand to advise on their marketing as a black version of Boyzone.

The brothers are aged between 18 and 23 and play smooth contemporary American R'n'B grooves, yet it is difficult to see what makes them special. They move well enough but are more than a few steps behind their uncle. They sing sweetly but are several vertebrae short of spine-tingling. The songs are catchy but Babyface and D'Angelo must reject better material before breakfast.

What they have in abundance is sex appeal of the kind that makes teenage girls scream. Every shake and wiggle is greeted with a fresh bout. As 3T are addicted to such movements there is a lot of screaming. There are costume changes between almost every song, including one on stage in which the boys strip down to their boxer shorts. Several members of the youthful audience appear close to fainting at this point.

The hit singles *Why* and *I Need You* are well received but strangely the loudest screams are reserved for a pointless version of *Wonderwall* and an utterly bizarre Jackson Five sequence in which father Tito joins them and they don 1970s afro wigs for a greatest hits medley.

It is possible 3T will turn out to have the talent to rival more famous members of the family and TJ, the youngest brother, is the most theatrical and probably blessed with the best voice, but they have a way to go. The support act, Shola Ama, a precocious 17-year-old purveyor of black British soul from Kensal Green, swung every bit as convincingly as this brotherhood from LA.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament: JUSTIN MEISSNER

Age: 24 in April.

Profession: Ballet dancer.

How does a Brisbane-born boy come to choose ballet instead of surfing? "It was the usual male dancer's story of starting classes because my sister used to go. But also my parents were professional ballroom dancers." He became a Great British Hope at 16 when he sent videotapes of himself to the Royal Ballet School and was accepted. While there he won the Adeline Genée gold medal; also a scholarship from the Prix de Lausanne competition. "The Lausanne scholarship funded my second year at the school, which was important because my parents wouldn't have been able to afford it."

Wasn't it a bit grim in London so far from home? "I lived in a hostel, sharing a room with three other boys — not ballet students — but in fact I had a wonderful time, meeting so many people, hearing fresh ideas, broadening my outlook. I learnt I wasn't alone. Besides, my parents had given up a lot for me to come. So I felt that I paid back their faith when the Royal Ballet company took me on in 1992."

Present repertoire: The Fakir and Bronze Idol in the current Covent Garden revival of *La Bayadère*. Future debuts are the Fool in MacMillan's *Prince of the Pagodas* and Puck in Ashton's *The Dream*.

His toughest experience so far? "The Blue Skater in Ashton's *Les Patineurs*, especially at the end when you are alone on the darkened stage, pirouetting in the falling snow. The curtain comes down, then rises again, then finally comes down, but there's no time to stop. You've just got to stay in this tiny spotlight, your mouth is full of paper snowflakes, you've never felt so dizzy and your legs are like lead."

Is he a masochist to specialise in these virtuosic, physically painful roles? "No, it's just that I've got a high jump, and fast, bouncy dance is very much my thing. Sometimes, though, I would really love to dance slowly."

So does he resent being typecast? "I love what I do, although eventually I would like to finish my career with more expressive, romantic roles. But at the moment I feel very lucky. I am being paid to do a job I enjoy. How many people can say that?"

NADINE MEISNER

■ CHOICE 1

Mitsuko Uchida plays piano music by Berg, Beethoven and Schumann

VENUE: Tonight at the Barbican

■ CHOICE 2

Tony Harrison's *The Passion* is toured by Northern Broadsides

VENUE: In Skipton today and tomorrow

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC 1

Valery Gergiev and his Rotterdam Philharmonic supply thrills and intensity at the Barbican

■ MUSIC 2

. . . while Schumann's 'poeti oratorio', *Das Paradies und di Peri*, receives a rare outing

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

EAST IS EAST Second West End showing for Ayub Khan Din's highly enjoyable family drama, comic and serious, set in 1970s Salford where a Pakistani patriarch vainly tries to bring up his six children according to ancestral tradition.
Royal Court Downstairs (Duke of York's), St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat 3.30pm (no perfs March 28, 31). Until April 26.

MITSUKO UCHIDA The Japanese pianist — renowned for her fresh and inspirational interpretations of a wide range of repertoire — gives this evening's Celebrity recital. The programme includes Berg's short sonata in one movement, Schumann's *Davidsbündlertänze* and Beethoven's final piano sonata, No 32 in C minor.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm. ♿

SUMMER BEGINS The Four Corners Season continues with David Eldridge's short comedy set in Barking, E13, at the end of the football season. Directed by Jonathan Lloyd, who directed Eldridge's excellent *Serving It Up* at the Bush last year.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Opens tonight 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until April 5.

ELSEWHERE

BAGNOR A battle-scarred hero comes back from the trenches accompanied by a strange Cockney with whom he shares a dangerous secret. **Deadwood — A Soldier Returns** by Alex Jones, directed by Stephen Rayne, is set in the summer of 1918.
Watermill, Bagnor, near Newbury (01635 46044). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs (from April 3) and Sat (from April 5), 2.30pm, except Sat 26, 6.30pm. Until April 26.

BUXTON ***Phoenix Dance Company*** presents a freewheeling exploration of camaraderie and physicality with performances of *White Picket Fence*, *Eve's Reflection* and *Covering Ground*.
Buxton Opera House, Water Street (01298 72190). Tonight, 7.30pm.

CHESTER Nicholas Kraemer conducts the **Manchester Camerata** in Handel's *Water Music Suite No 1* and two pieces by Telemann, Concerto in E minor for Flute and Recorder (soloists Michala Petri and John Barrow) and a selection from *The Water Music Suite*. Vivaldi's Concerto in C major and J S Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto* complete the programme.
Town Hall (0161-907 9040). Tonight, 7.30pm.

SKIPTON Northern Broadsides presents six performances at three venues of Tony Harrison's **The Passion**, taken from the York and Wakefield Mystery Plays, directed by Barrie Rutter.
Skipton Auction Mart (01756 792909), tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm; **Halifax**, Dean Clough Viaduct (01422 250250), March 28 and 29, 7.30pm. **Harewood House** (0113-288 6331), March 30 and 31, 7.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Anthony d'Offay: Kiki Smith, Chief I Saw a Bird (0171-499 4100) **Catto**: Lelia Pissarro (0171-435 6660). **Chris Beetles**: Geraldine Girvan (0171-839 7551) **Goethe-Institut**: Lovis Corinth and His Times (0171-411 3400) **Grosvenor**: Four British Artists (0171-629 0891) **Jill George**: David Leverett, Signs in the Sky (0171-439 7319) **Orleans House**: From Realism to Abstraction: Richmond Printmakers (0181-892 0221) **Portal**: Portal Painters Spring Exhibition (0171-493 0706) **Tate**: Painterly Pop (0171-887 8000) **V & A**: The Cutting Edge: Fifty Years of British Fashion (0171-938 8349/8441)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- ■ House full, returns only
- ◩ Some seats available
- ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **ART**: David Haig, Anton Lesser, Mark Williams in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ **GUYS AND DOLLS** Richard Eyre revives his famous production of the Frank Loesser musical. Final performances on Saturday. Back in July.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Tue, Wed, Thurs, 2pm, Sat 2pm (no perf March 29). Until March 29

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** Panned by the critics, loved by the fans. Cliff Richard's musical treatment of *Wuthering Heights*. Helen Hobson plays Cathy, with songs by Tim Rice.
Labatts Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-416 6080). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until April 5

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR Micheál MacLiammóir's celebrated tribute to Wilde, movingly revived by Simon Callow, conveying the wit, the gravity, the pathos.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Until May 10

☐ **IVANOV**: Ralph Fiennes heads a splendid cast that includes Harriet Walter and Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's excellent production of Chekhov's first produced play.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat 3pm. Until April 12

☐ **MUCH REVUE ABOUT NOTHING** A cast of five present revue and musical material from shows of the 1950s and 1960s. Variable quality. Pleasantish evening.
King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat and Sun, 3.30pm.

☐ **POPCORN** Ben Elton's blistering comedy about movie violence. A Tarantinoesque director gets his comeuppance when a couple of serial killers (great playing by Patrick O'Kane and Dena Davis) blame him for their misdeeds. Laurence Boswell directs.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Now previewing, 8pm. Opens *April 2, 7pm*. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 4pm.

☐ **ROMANCE, ROMANCE** Musical double-bill by Barry Harman and Keith Herrmann, derived from a Schnitzler tale of love in old Vienna coupled with a modern version set on Long Island. Directed by Steven Dexter. Transfer from a sell-out run at the Bridewell.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **THREE HOURS AFTER MARRIAGE** Eighteenth-century comedy by Gay, Pope and Arbuthnot. *Laboured comic effects do not increase the jollity but there are funny moments*
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat Thurs, 2pm. In rep

☐ **WASTE** Felicity Kendal, Michael Pennington, Denis Quilley in Granville Barker's fascinating drama of the power struggle within a government, complicated by sex.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. In rep.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737) ☐ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) ◩ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ◩ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ◩ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ◩ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

SPACE JAM (U): Sports star Michael Jordan collides with characters from Looney Tunes cartoons. A juvenile mess; director Joe Pytka.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

STAR WARS (U): The movie milestone returns, with four extra minutes. With Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Alec Guinness; director, George Lucas.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

TROJAN EDDIE (15): Urban scamp Stephen Rea struggles to be his own man. Droll drama, with Richard Harris.
Metro (0171-437 0757) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT

◆ **BLOOD AND WINE** (15): Seedy adventures of wine merchant Jack Nicholson. Stylish potboiler.
Virgins: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **BOUND** (18): Thriller about two sultry *lesbians and a pile of Mob money, with* Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** (0181-315 4215) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (15): Map-making Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

HAMLET (PG): Lavish, literal-minded *Shakespeare, staged with some* panache by Kenneth Branagh. With Derek Jacobi, Kate Winslet, and surprising faces in minor parts.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366)

◆ **JERRY MAGUIRE** (15): A sports PR agent gets a conscience. Enjoyable, if overlong comedy with Tom Cruise.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0990 888990) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **MICHAEL** (PG): Ragged, indulgent romantic fable saved by John Travolta's starring role as an angel.
Odeon West End (0181-315 4221)

◆ **THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY** (12): Jane Campion's icily elegant adaptation of Henry James, with Nicole Kidman as the independent American sucked into a marriage in Europe.
Lumière (0171-836 0691) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1523)

◆ **RANSOM** (15): Intermittently absorbing kidnap drama, with Mel Gibson, Rene Russo and Gary Sinise.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) ***Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216)*

MUSIC: Mesmerising Gergiev: revived Schumann; and unclassifiable Martland

Charisma in full pelt

Valery Gergiev is a huge conducting talent, a master backstage operator, and a figure of dark, unsettling charisma. If that makes him sound like a mixture of Herbert von Karajan, Peter Mandelson and Ivan the Terrible, so be it. At 43, the Russian runs the world's most combustible vocal ensemble (*the Kirov Opera*). *Europe*'s most improved orchestra (the Rotterdam Philharmonic), and his own brilliant career. You don't get so far so fast by being Mr Demure.

Part of the excitement of watching Gergiev, as the whole musical world is doing,

Rotterdam PO/ Gergiev
Barbican

stems from what might be called the Formula One factor: the aura of danger, of a man pushing himself beyond sensible limits, living on wits, *nerves, instincts* and (by all accounts) almost no sleep.

All that comes through in the way he conducts. The technique is stunning, but so highly charged that you could *probably run the National* Grid from a cable attached to his baton. The body is forever hunched forwards; the black eyes flashing; the face stern and lined beyond his years; the left hand perpetually twitching. Strange heavy-breathing noises are audible even when the orchestra is mezzo-forte. Gergiev in full flow is intensity in motion.

Yet the results are rarely over the top in the old Russian manner. True, his view of *Beethoven's Eroica Symphony* was not the last word in classical restraint. The first movement was fearsomely accented and often held back melodramatically; the funeral march viewed retrospectively, as it were, through Tchaikovsky and Mahler; the scherzo grandly sonorous; the finale elongated into bombast. But the conception *was* heroic, and driven with total conviction.

And what a vehicle the Rotterdam Philharmonic has *become for Gergiev's ideas.* Its string sound is fabulously rich, as an impassioned account of Bartók's *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta* demonstrated. And its wind players are razor-sharp in attack yet mellifluously blended, as they showed in Stravinsky's *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*. In short, this must be the best Russian orchestra west of Minsk.

One may question some aspects of its relationship with *its maestro*. Inaugurating an annual ten-day "Gergiev Festival" strikes me as carrying the cult of personality too far. But you can't deny the thrill in the music-making. And what would any British orchestra or opera house give to have Gergiev at its helm? Unfortunately, probably not enough.

RICHARD MORRISON

CLIVE BARDA

Valery Gergiev: "the aura of danger, of a man pushing himself beyond sensible limits"

Paradise lost and restored

Das Paradies und die Peri
Barbican

JOHN ELIOT GARDINER's choice of *Das Paradies und die Peri* as the closing work of his first *Schumann Revealed* weekend *was striking but not surprising.* He has long been a champion of Schumann's poetic oratorio, and in the Barbican's programme called it "unquestionably one of his greatest works". The composer himself declared the piece to be "perhaps my best", and though it is hard to agree with either verdict, Gardiner's confidence in the music made this a memorable performance.

Schumann also insisted that his oratorio (1843) was "one for bright, happy people, not for the oratory". Based on one of the stories in Thomas Moore's *Lalla Rookh*, it is undoubtedly a secular work, but the atmosphere of the oratory is never far away. The final chords form a tell-tale *plagal cadence, the "Amen" harmonies* favoured by church composers; and the square choral climaxes lapse all too readily into fugal respectability, as if Schumann was trying to please an old counterpoint teacher. As for the jibe at sacred oratorios, Mendelssohn's *St Paul*, written not long before, has more drama.

But "oratorio" is a misleading label for Schumann's work, which is unlike any other and deserves a classification all of its own. In its most attractive passages it *resembles an orchestrated song-cycle*: many of the best numbers have Lied-like simplicity. Schumann responded with directness to the story, which tells of how the Peri, daughter of a fallen spirit, gains readmission to Paradise by presenting at its gate the gift dearest to Heaven. She brings offerings from India and Egypt in vain, but succeeds when she arrives from Syria with the tear of a repentant sinner.

The poem's fragrant imagery is *matched in limpid melodies and colourful* orchestration, and in Sunday's performance the music gained by being stripped of its old-style Romantic varnish. Here, in spite of some lapses of intonation and ensemble, the score was played with *thrilling* clarity by the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique.

The cast of mostly word-responsive Lieder singers was led by a radiant Barbara Bonney, whose Peri was a suffering heroine in the tradition of German Romantic opera. Bernarda Fink's glorious, even-toned mezzo was ideal as the gatekeeper Angel, and much of the narration was done with elegance by the tenor Christoph Prégardien. A pity *there was not more music for the bright* soprano of Alexandra Coku and that the number evoking Syria's beauty was Gerald Finley's only big moment. But at least the excellent Monteverdi Choir had ample opportunity to shine.

JOHN ALLISON

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Steve Martland Band
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such *high amplification*. but its energy is of a consuming, Blakeian sort: "Energy is eternal delight" is the poet's maxim that gives a name to the piece written for this tour, *Eternal Delight*, and its knife-edge precision gives it a formidable drive.

Blake was also the inspiration for *Horses of Instruction* ("The tigers of wrath are wiser than the horses of instruction"), but the piece's ferocity suggests the wildest of beasts. This was the only number not conducted by Martland — oddly, *since it was the most* complex rhythmically, though the ensemble managed it superbly. For much of its [illegible] minutes, *Horses* is an ear-shattering assault, but its violence is controlled and the rhythmic compression of its final stages winches up the tension almost unbearably.

Re-Mix is much more of a rave, with a touch of klezmer, while *Kick* subjected English folksong contours to some rough treatment. *Beat the Retreat*, commissioned for last year's Purcell tercentenary, similarly made use of a pounding ground bass, straddled vertiginously by a flugelhorn (Lee Butler), but both here and in *Principia*, one felt that sheer volume was being made to fill the gap left by flagging inspiration.

Dole Stages, by a Martland pupil, Joe Duddell, made good use of this band's strength. Steve Reich's *Nagoya Marimbas*, though played virtuosically by Colin Curri, demonstrated all too cleary the evils of amplification.

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Central to the new way of working and crucial to the future success of BIIBA is the establishment of a 5 strong Member Support Unit. This unit will be the initial point of contact *for all services to members and must be staffed by highly professional, skilled and committed people.*

Applicants must possess strong organisational, administrative and communication skills, and be experienced in using word processing, spreadsheet and presentation packages. They must enjoy dealing with people and be able to present a professional, confident and friendly image to members and to the public. Applicants must also have a well rounded educational background with a minimum of five "O" level (or equivalent) passes including English and Maths.

A knowledge of the insurance industry, and a background of working in a public relations or customer service environment would be an advantage. Candidates must be able to demonstrate enthusiasm, commitment, an ability to work on their own initiative and a desire to succeed.

For a job description and details of how to apply contact Lesley Mackay on 0171 397 0221. E Mail: mackay1@biiba.org.uk Internet address: http://www.biiba.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Friday 18 April 1997.

BMG ENTERTAINMENT INTERNATIONAL UK & IRELAND

We are part of a world-wide entertainment company whose core business is music, with artists such as Annie Lennox, Robert Miles, M People, Lisa Stansfield, Toni Braxton and Gary Barlow on our roster.

Three absorbing roles have now arisen within our Company, as follows, for highly organised, self-motivated, team orientated professionals who are able to work under pressure.

OFFICE SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR

Your role will be to provide full secretarial and administrative support to both the Facilities Manager and the Office Manager, to whom you will report.

Fully conversant with office facilities administration, key responsibilities will include managing the car fleet, overseeing the telephone system, monitoring breakdown/repairs of office equipment and supervising the team in the absence of the office manager.

As well as an administrative background you will ideally possess good typing/WP skills. You must possess a positive, flexible and "*can do*" *attitude and excellent* communication skills.

Two true PA roles to our Finance Director and Systems Director for polished professionals with strong interpersonal skills:

PA TO FINANCE DIRECTOR

With an understanding of standard financial concepts, your role will provide a full secretarial service to the Finance Director and general support to the Department. *Responsibilities will* include prioritising workloads, *managing Company insurances* and the *Director's diary, circulating reports* and both internal and external telephone liaison. You should have a minimum of 3 years secretarial experience including fast, accurate typing and shorthand and be able to work on your own initiative.

PA TO SYSTEMS DIRECTOR

Providing a full secretarial service to the Systems Director and supporting the Project Manager this is an all round PA role handling all administration, incoming calls, managing the systems' training budget and organising technical training for our London and West Bromwich sites. Additionally you will manage ad-hoc projects.

As well as strong organisational and WP skills (W4W) you should be familiar with Excel, Powerpoint and cc Mail.

Salary and benefits are highly competitive. In the first instance interested candidates should send a covering letter and CV, clearly marking which vacancy they are applying for, to: Carol Golding, (Ref: BMG Entertainment International), *Lee Golding Advertising* and Communications, 136-138 New *Cavendish Street,* London W1M 7FG.

BMG Entertainment International UK and Ireland has an Equal Opportunities Policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

A Unit of BMG Entertainment

PICTONS INCORPORATING SMEATHMANS

PICTONS Solicitors

QUALITY MANAGER

With seven offices across Herts, Beds and Bucks, we are a large, progressive firm specialising in a number of practice areas. In order to strengthen our Quality Team a new position has arisen for an individual who can maintain and enhance our exisiting procedures.

This is a senior appointment with a high degree of authority and accountability. Reporting to the Quality Partner, duties will encompass branch office audits and file reviews, updating the quality manual and preparing departments for Legal Aid Board audits. You will also assist in developing initiatives such as Investors in People.

Successful candidates must have similar relevant experience or at least knowledge of qulaity standards and auditing procedures, preferably within a partnership. You should have held a position of comparable responsibility and have well developed organisational and interpersonal skills . It is also essential to be computer literate, mobile and robust, flexible person.

This is an exciting opportunity of a fulfilling job within a friendly yet professional environment. Please write, enclsoing a copy of your CV, to Sarika Lynch, Pictons Solicitors, 'Keystone' 60 London Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 1NG. Closing date for applications is 11 April.

No agencies please.

BUSINESS CENTRE MANAGER

WEST END £18K-£20K + BENS

We are a prestigious Company, engaged in service office accommodation. This is a rapidly expanding sector and we are well positioned to maximise on the substantial opportunities that currently exist.

We have just secured an additional West End office which will be established by our Group Service Manager. As a result, we now require an additional Manager to take over the existing responsibilities for running our "flagship" office.

This high profile role will involve;

- *Managing and motivating the front office reception and Maintenance personnel*
- Selling office space to new and existing clients
- Good secretarial and administration skills
- Monthly invoicing and accounts maintenance
- "Troubleshooting" on behalf of all clients

You are a proactive and a highly personable individual, who is keen to work in an environment which is characterised by a young, focused and ambitious team.

If you feel capable of rising to this challenge, please contact: Leigh Talbot. Tel: 0171 306 3100, or fax CV 0171 306 3166.

PA to Main Board Director
(Property Company)
25+

Salary £18,250 + Bonus. Busy Mayfair Offices. Experienced in W4W. Heavy workload. Typing (100wpm). Shorthand (100wpm). Please send CV's to Stephanie Meanders, Personnel Manager, Box Number 4081

SECRETARY/PA

Adaptable, self motivated, personable & competent secretary required for small, friendly Estate Agents office in Belgravia.

George Trollope

0171 824 8111.

Wanted lively, well organised and flexible secretary to work for a friendly/busy PR agency specialising in food.

Knowledge of Word for Windows 6 would be beneficial.

Competitive salary, BUPA, season ticket loan and discretionary bonuses are part of the package.

Please fax or post your cv to: Karen Newman, Nexus Public Relations, Glen House, 125 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3RP. Fax: 0171 244 8385.

PA TO DIRECTOR

C£20,000 - London

Unflappable, organised and experienced, you have excellent typing, shorthand, telephone and English skills. You are at home with computers (Lotus Smart Suite an advantage) and like to use initiative. You are a strong personality.

We are a leading, fast moving business rescue and insolvency company in Chelsea with a nationwide office network. Please send CV to Jo Self, The MacDonald Partnership, 26-30 Old Church Street, London SW3 5BY. Fax 0171 351 4300.

Secretaries with Windows '95, Word 6, Excel, Powerpoint

Required for long term assignments West London

Well presented, team spirited candidates who enjoy being involved in a busy international environment should call Shirley/Sandra on 0181 846 6910 or fax your details to 0181 741 2001.

BePOS

The Recruitment Specialist

AMANDA WAKELEY

ADMINISTRATION CO ORDINATOR FOR FASHION DESIGN HOUSE

c£22K SW3

A skilled administrator and co ordinator with a proven track record in taking responsibility and working under pressure is required to provide all round support for the Directors, sales and PR teams. The successful applicant will be committed and methodical with first rate administrative and secretarial skills and a flexible, upbeat approach. A background in PR *would be an advantage. Thorough knowledge of computers, particularly Word* for Windows and Lotus 123 is essential.

Please apply in writing to the Personnel Officer,

80 Fulham Rd, London SW3 6HR.

INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM, MAYFAIR

Senior Sec/PA, required by well-known firm. Ability to work under pressure, strong organisational skills, fast accurate typing. Word for Windows experience essential. Shorthand an advantage. Salary commensurate with experience. Please Reply to Box No 4088

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - TOWER BRIDGE.

Working for the Directors of an energetic organisation; a legal background would be helpful, must be hardworking, punctual and resilient. Hours 9-5pm. Salary *£24,000. Please fax CV on*

0171 488 3044.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

required for busy international management consultancy in Central London. Salary negotiable. Please send CV and photo to box No 4012

FULHAM

Bright, confident person needed for exciting opportunity in dynamic property company. Excellent presentation and administrative skills essential. Competitive salary offered.

Please call 0171 381 4990
Ref. SA or JH
NO AGENCIES

THEO FENNELL

PA TO MD/DESIGN DIRECTOR

The MD/Design Director of a high profile Jewellery Designers and Retailers is looking for a PA. They must be intelligent, resourceful, well presented and able to cope with a constantly changing creative environment. *They would need to organise his life and run the Studio admin* and its current projects. They should be able to get on with the company's clients, tradespeople and internal workforce.

Skills required are Word 6, fast accurate typing and shorthand. Some experience in luxury goods would be a bonus, but patience and a sense of humour are vital. Salary AAE.

Please send CV with handwritten letter to:

Mrs C Ryder, Theo Fennell PLC, 2B Pond Place, London SW3 6TF.

Senior Secretary

East Sussex

We are seeking a secretarial 'paragon' to act as PA to our Principal and run the busy office of this international school. If you are good at managing principals, highly organized, and *can* handle oodles of work, we'd like to hear from you without delay. We can offer you a competitive salary, a busy life and attractive surroundings, in a listed building. CV's to Pat Clarke, Bocksweod Grange, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 3PT.

CHELSEA SW3

Young, bright, assistant secretary to join small office of Norwegian shipbrokers in the heart of Chelsea. We are seeking an enthusiastic, capable all-rounder, *to assist in the day to day running* of a busy office. You should have excellent secretarial skills, including typing, shorthand and a good knowledge of computers.

Please send CV with covering letter to: Gillian Ford,

Nenas Agencies Limited,

Ixworth House, 37 Ixworth Place, London SW3 3QH.

DIRECTORS SECRETARY

West End Commercial Surveyors

A well educated, organised & experienced secretary is required to work with two *Directors. Understanding of Word for Windows* is essential and a knowledge of Access Database and Excel Spreadsheets an advantage.

The ideal candidate will be over 25 and a non-smoker. Salary £20,000 - £22,500.

Please reply with CV to Wilkinson Williams, 9 Park Place, London SW1A 1LP.

BORED SECRETARIES.

If you are looking for an *opportunity to move away from* secretarial, join Foxton's Property Management Department. Run your own Property Management section taking responsibility for 100 properties or more, in a progressive fast moving organisation. Must be well educated, hard working, have a *great sense of humour,* sound comp skills, a will to learn, car driver. Ideally aged 25-35. Salary £18K-£22K.

Tel:0171 373 5833.

SECRETARY/PA TO PARTNER

Aged 24+ required for 4 partner firm of Accountants with happy atmosphere. *N/s. Previous experience of working* within accountancy practice and knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1 essential. Salary AAE.

Please forward CV marked PSC to:
The Staff Partner
Hyman Linden & Co
118 Baker Street
London W1M 1LB

CAN YOU RUN YOUR OWN OFFICE? CAN YOU PROVE THIS?

We require a young person to run a small office in SW1. Must be well presented and well spoken. You will be reqd to work alone from time to time so you must be conscientious, confident, experienced and self motivating. Exp Reqd: Micro W4W 7 & W 95; recep; filing; gen office; stationery; telephones; travel bkgs etc. Call only if you have the above experience and can prove it! References will be taken up. Salary neg. but in the region of £17,500 p/a.

Tel: 0171 629 2226.
NO AGENCIES

PA TO MD OF LEADING INTERNATIONAL PR CONSULTANCY

A full service PR consultancy requires a bright, flexible, well presented, experienced and professional PA with outstanding secretarial skills for this challenging role. Fast accurate typing with good knowledge of PowerPoint are essential.

Strong administration and communication skills, initiative and attention to detail plus a sense of humour important.

Applications to: The Managing Director,
Grayling, 4 Bedford Square,
London WC1B 3RA.

WHERE LONDON MAGAZINE

SALES CO-ORDINATOR
(£15,000-£17,000)

Fast-moving international publishing company requires a multi skilled individual to support the London sales team.

You will require excellent secretarial/administrative skills & be capable of using your own initiative. Min 2 years experience in sales/accounts (Sage). Articulate phone manner & good PC literacy on MS Office essential.

Please apply in writing enclosing CV to: The Publisher

Where London Magazine, 26 Market Place, London W1N 7AL.

Secretary/Receptionist

Small, dynamic company in West London requires Secretary/Receptionist for a small team of *Sales and Engineering* Managers

Good computer skills (WP & Apple) and flexibility a requirement for this demanding and interesting position. Shorthand desirable.

A levels and some business and administrative experience an advantage.

Salary: £18-£18K, depending on experience

Please fax CV to 0181 459 0336 or mail to:
Cross Medical Limited
1 The Chase Centre
8 Chase Road
LONDON
NW10 6QD

PA/Secretary King's Road c£25,000 aae

Peter Golding is an international designer of stretch jeanswear and major supplier of top of the range childrenswear to France from the Far East. He is looking for an experienced PA/Secretary, ideally from a fashion or design background, to work closely with him for daily secretarial duties and confidential matters.

You will have good conversational French, be numerate, of smart appearance with the ability to be his "representative" in his absence. A varied highly involved position with wider responsibilities. Age 28+. Available immediately. Fax or send CV in confidence to Katrina Taylor, Peter Golding Assoc. 151 King's Road, London SW3 Fax: 0171 351 5802

Customer Services Administrator

To be focal point for customer contact and administration within a technical software environment. Ideal person would be customer focused, calm, diplomatic, educated to at least A level with good relevant experience. PC literate with Excel and Word, excellent communication skills, good telephone manner and smart presentation. European languages advantageous. Immediate start, salary £14-£18K + package. CVs and covering letter by fax, post or Email to S.Lickfold. No telephone enquiries.

CONSTELLAR LIMITED
Merlos Towers, 1 Nine Elms Lane, London, SW8 5NQ
Fax: 0171 887 0707
Email: slickfold@uk.constellar.com

FIRST CLASS SEC/PA 24+

Required for small, but busy West End *Surveyors. Must be fast and accurate with knowledge of Windows and previous property experience.*

Excellent salary plus bonus.

Please contact Tricia Stanton
Colin Buckle & Company
Canberra House, 315 Regent Street
London W1R 7YB

Tel: 0171 631 1923 Fax: 0171 637 8870

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

required for Chairman of busy W1 architects. Provide first class, professional, confidential and comprehensive secretarial and administrative service. Microsoft Office/ Mac experience essential, good organisational skills, ability to work to deadlines, some PR work. Typing 60wpm, *shorthand advantageous. Candidates 30+, available for interviews* and immediate start, £18K - No agencies.

Reply by fax to *Miss Michele Lugton*
0171 636 1710.

Secretarial Assistant

London £15-17,000p.a. *plus benefits*

The small, busy headquarters office of this listed public company needs an all rounder. You'll have your own area of responsibility but, in addition, you'll be helping to cover reception, telephones - and lots more. We'd like you to be proficient in MS Word and Lotus 123. Your typing ought to be at least 55wpm. Shorthand would be nice but it's not absolutely essential.

Call me or send me your CV please:
John McManus (0171 486 6849), C & M Search & Selection, 57/59 Gloucester Place, London W1H 3PE.

Tel: 0171 680 6806 La Crème de la Crème Fax: 0171 782 7586

TELEVISION
£24,000

This media conglomerate needs a professional, energetic PA who enjoys liaising and negotiating at senior level. Located south of the river, this role will suit a self-starter with good shorthand and a flexible attitude. 55 wpm typing, 90 wpm shorthand, Windows literate.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FASHION
£23,000

This leading women's fashion group have an opening for a PA to join at board level. You will undertake your own projects, organise events, liaise with clients and effectively manage this head office. Retail back-ground preferred. 60 wpm typing essential.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CITY TEMPS

do you have [illegible]
- CORPORATE FINANCE
- CORPORATE LAW
- PROPERTY LAW
- MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS
- LITIGATION

with good general [illegible] skills
If so call us on [illegible] in order to earn [illegible]

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA TO MANAGING PARTNER TO £24,000

This successful partnership is looking for a right hand for their Managing Partner. Extensive client liaison, travel arrangements, client entertainment and responsibility for your own projects and research. Word for Windows and Powerpoint essential. 60 wpm typing

Please telephone 0171 628 9529

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

COLLEGE LEAVER OR 2ND JOBBER
c£15,000 package

Excellent opportunity to join a [illegible] bank as secretary to a team of busy [illegible]. You will arrange meetings, produce [illegible] correspondence and even get the [illegible] to develop the marketing side of the role. 50 wpm typing.

Please telephone Alice Favell 0171 628 9529

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EUROPEAN CONTROLLER

£22,000 Package

European Underwriter and his deputy of this prestigious insurance brokers, require a senior PA to provide comprehensive secretarial support. Their frequent overseas travel means that you will need the initiative and ability to act autonomously, to handle internal and external queries and to co-ordinate meetings both overseas and domestically. As the linchpin for their activities your organisational skills will enable you to manage diaries and events throughout Europe as well as concentrating on the demands of the London Headquarters. Previous senior level secretarial experience is also required.

Committed to equal opportunities

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

CLIENT DRIVEN

£25,000 Package

The Corporate Broking division of this prestigious Investment Bank is looking for a confident PA to provide comprehensive support to three Directors. You will co-ordinate hectic business schedules, arrange client lunches, and oversee departmental projects. You will have responsibility for all secretarial support within the department, including temporary staff, therefore previous supervisory experience would be an advantage. This varied role requires an individual with drive, enthusiasm and solid banking experience who is seeking new demanding challenges. 70wpm typing, W4W and knowledge of Harvard Graphics essential.

Committed to equal opportunities

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

Belle
Recruitment Limited

8 Staple Inn London WC1V 7QH
Tel. 0171 404 4655 Fax 0171 831 7581

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT
£15,000-£18,000 pa

We are an established independent Secretarial Consultancy with a growing list of first-rate clients. The recruitment team is highly experienced and results-oriented. The atmosphere is informal yet business-like and we seek an additional Consultant with similar qualities.

You should be an experienced Consultant with a proven track record and enjoy the buzz of handling a professional team of temps (Initially maternity cover). Benefits include profit share, PPP, a lovely location and a dynamic happy environment.

Please contact Hilary Watts in confidence to discuss.

Pick of the Bunch West End

• Office Manager	£24K
• Design	£22K
• Trainee Researcher	£18K
• Partners Secretary	£19K
• Customer Services	£16K
• Reception	£15-20K
• *Management Consultants*	£18K

We have an egg-cellent selection of secretarial vacancies. 50+ wpm. Egg-cited?

Celebrating 20 Years

Please call Camilla, Lucy, Andrea or Susanna on 0171-434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

TEMPS

Do you have a finance or professional background?

Jonathan Wren is the recommended supplier to the The City Personnel Group which has a membership of over 300 banks in London.

We need good calibre PA/secretaries for a range of assignments in the City, Docklands & West End.

Shouldn't you be earning £10-£12.50 ph?

Please contact Denna Berry

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

JONATHAN WREN

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Admin Assistant/ Receptionist
Battersea - c£11,500

Do you live in Battersea, Fulham, Chelsea or Clapham and fancy a great first job and to be able to drive to work? This is a truly fun, young bunch whose offices are in a lovely new building and they need you to help them out with general office admin (40wpm typing) and dealing with enquiries and clients on the phone. It's a lively sales and marketing environment so you must be an active social butterfly! The prospects are excellent too - they'll encourage you to be a success! Call us now to hear more.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

KNIGHTSBRIDGE 1ST JOB!
Secretary/Receptionist
up to £14,000 + bens

Leaving college? Looking for your first job? This is a lovely position working for a young, very friendly company based in Knightsbridge, 5 minutes from The Kings Road and its great shops and bars! Work experience would be a bonus but it's not necessary - only 45wpm typing and a mature, confident personality will get you there. If you're 18yrs or more, smart and want your first job to be everything it should be call us now.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Office Administrator
Fluent French
£25,000 + good bens

This small company with world-wide interests, based in Mayfair, is looking for an Administrator to coordinate the office and to work with an international team. You must be computer literate and an excellent communicator [illegible] with proven office administration experience and have English M/T. This is a unique role which will combine your [illegible] skills with your organisational abilities and if you're a [illegible] call us now.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

Executive Secretary to General Manager

Tax-free salary + Free accommodation

The General Manager of a five-star luxury beach resort in Dubai, UAE, is looking for an Executive Secretary. The role is high profile and in addition to secretarial support includes personnel administration and customer liaison. Applications are invited from mature candidates willing to dedicate themselves to this extremely responsible position. Previous experience in hotels is not essential, but confidence, flexibility and the ability to work in a multi-cultural environment are a must. Superb benefits include 33 days' holiday pa, free air ticket, free food.

Please do not telephone, but post your cv to Sabina Stewart, Crone Corkill International, 5 Queen Street, London, EC4N 1SP.

First round interviews in London w/c 7 April.

Crone Corkill
International Recruitment

career moves

PUBLIC RELATIONS OPPORTUNITIES
Recruitment Manager £25,000
(5yrs+ Recruitment exp. at all levels essential.)
PA/Co-Ordinator £18,000 -European Pharmaceuticals.
Team Sec/Co-Ordinator £14,000 (various accts)
Please call Jane Belly

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES
Media Sec - with powerpoint - **£14,000.**
Please call Tara Kelly.

DESIGN/MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES
Design Sec - suit mum returner - **£14,000**
Fashion Exhibition Org - £14,000
Mktg Grad Asst - Intn'l TV - **£12,000**
Please call Clare Fazackerley.

Sutherland House, 5-6 Argyll Street, London W1V 1AD.
Tel: 0171 439 6411, Fax 0171 434 0287

THE buzz OF THE trading floor

£22,000 – Canary Wharf

GORDON·YATES

The company: Top of the range, world leading investment bank; usual stunning environment, people, benefits etc.

The role: Admin Assistant/PA to gregarious, competitive, outgoing head of Euro Equities: integral admin 'core' of a high achieving, four-strong team.

The essentials: Proven experience within finance/trading environment; keyboard skills (50wpm+); strong personality.

Please call 0171-494 4466.

project *administrator*

to £22,000
6 month project

GORDON·YATES

The company: Leading UK PLC with an international presence in luxury brands and consumer goods.

The role: Project administrator to a specific brand development project: pro-active co-ordination of all sides; some secretarial support, presentations.

The essentials: Proven admin experience/skills; initiative; ability to deal at all levels, secretarial skills.

Please call 0171-494 4466.

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

REED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Window display company requires a Project Co-ordinator with excellent communication and customer care skills combined with good Excel and Word to deal with high profile fashion company clients. The ideal candidate will be well organised and level headed with a second European language. **£25,000**

For Executive Secretarial Positions In The West End, Tel: 0171 224 2820

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

REED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

A Senior Partner in securities investments requires a first class PA with a background in either the investment, legal or stockbroking sectors. Good organisational skills and a professional approach are essential for this exciting role involving extensive client contact. **£20,000**

For Executive Secretarial Positions In The City, Tel: 0171 638 1666

PERSONAL ASSISTANT £18,000 - 25,000 WATFORD.

As PA to the Finance and Commercial director. You will be ? involved in the Production and Collation of finance statistics ad reconciliation of head office accounts. Other activities will involve diary + meeting management, minute taking, handling all correspondence and actioning where appropriate using Email + letter form. Ideally you'll have previous exp as an accounts assistant or senior clerical level or experience in a PA role. Graduate calibre. 25 yrs + ref: 484 Select Appointment 261 Station Rd, Harrow.

Tele 0181 427 6344 Fax 0181 861 3723.

sèlèct'

SECRETARY c£22,000 + Exc Bens + 22 Days Holiday

Confident, pro-active secretary required for charming partner in his 40s who heads up the IT Division of a prestigious Management Consultancy. He prefers to delegate, therefore, allowing you the opportunity to become totally involved. The position will include extensive organisation of meetings, travel and diaries. Your flexible attitude and ability to work well under pressure will be in demand in this position. Please contact MICHELLE SAYERS now for a detailed job description.

DEDICATED PA £22,000 + Extensive OT + Exc Bens

Dynamic American Partner requires experienced, intuitive PA to provide full support of the highest level to include managing a complex diary, organising extensive travel, internal and external meetings. You will intercept all communication to the Partner a will therefore, need to be pro-active in your approach. This is a varied, demanding role requiring total commitment, often working overtime to tight deadlines.

Please call GILLIAN THOMPSON for further details.
Pertemps City Network, 31-35 Fenchurch Street, London, EC3M 3DX
Tel: 0171 621 1304 Fax: 0171 626 6671

Pertemps City Network

Partners PA
£19,500+PRP

Brilliant new opportunity for dynamic, committed PA to support a main board Partner who is reputed to be young at heart, lively and likes his secretary to be involved in his business activities. 60wpm typing.

For further details, Call 0171 629 7232

ACME appointments

PERSONNEL SECRETARY
£18K + Benefits

Are you organised and enjoy using your initiative whilst being part of a hardworking team? This prestigious West End Finance House can offer a busy and challenging role where you will have your own projects as well as providing secretarial support to the Head of Department. Common sense and an outgoing personality are a must! (50wpm typing, Word for Windows and Excel). Banking or Personnel experience essential. Call Anna for an immediate interview.

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY
80wpm Shorthand
Up to £19K + Good Benefits

Are you looking to join a dynamic company which can offer you not only great variety and involvement, but excellent training and promotional opportunities? If you can offer A1 secretarial support to a busy Director with international responsibilities and have good Word for Windows, Excel and PowerPoint. "Call Corina now"

TEMPS! TEMPS!
CALL TODAY - WORK TOMMOROW!

Why sit at home waiting for your agency to call when you could be working for one of our prestigious City or West End clients and earn SERIOUS MONEY! Here is just a taster of current assignments we are looking to fill.

IMMEDIATE SHORTHAND ASSIGNMENTS (min 90 wpm)

* Director's Secretary - Venture Capital	6 months
* Senior Secretary - Personnel	3 months
* *Junior Marketing Secretary - Banking*	*Temp to Perm*

IMMEDIATE AUDIO ASSIGNMENTS (min 50 wpm)

* Partners' Secretary - Property	Temp to Perm
* *Team Secretary - Marketing*	*2/3 weeks*
* PowerPoint Secretary - Leisure	On going

If you have excellent secretarial skills, a good working knowledge of Windows packages and are aged 20-40, call our Temporary Division NOW!

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT
TEL: 0171 734 8484
FAX: 0171 734 8501

...about working for one of the world's largest professional services organisations where you may find yourself dealing with some of their national or international clients, or liaising with many of their 670 offices around the world?

Excellent Pay

Holiday Pay

Full Benefits Package

What is routine about working in many diverse business sectors ranging from taxation and accounting services to *corporate finance and management consultancy?*

And just what is routine about a job where you daily have to meet demanding challenges, juggle priorities, take responsibility and think on your feet?

These are the sort of extraordinary challenges you will face working for us as a temporary secretary.

We can provide you with continual long term work in a firm whose client portfolio contains more Times 100 names than anybody else's and whose global business spans more than 130 countries.

In return for your valued skills, we will provide you with excellent rates of pay and a full benefits package (including a mortgage scheme).

If your abilities are out of the ordinary, call Emma Hoddell on 0171 353 7684 (Ref: TC001).

MANPOWER
There's more for you

The Susan Mills Portfolio

SEC/PA **£20,000 + mtg**
Professional, flexible secretary with strong organisation skills needed by Director + small team. Typ 55 wpm. W4W + exc telephone skills 9.00-5.00 with some paid o/t.

Reception(x2) **£16 + £19k**
High profile, executive reception roles for 2 top calibre, exp. immaculately groomed and well spoken receptionists.

Team Player **to £18,000**
Ideal post for a young secretary (20-28) with initiative, to join a top finance co. In a very busy client driven environment. Good bens + opps. Paid o/t.

TEMP SECRETARIES **£9-11p/hr**
Immediate starts, varied, long and short term assignments in top City and West End Companies. Fast accurate typing & good software knowledge.

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MD of Int company seeks right hand person, who will constantly be on the move org functions, press releases, diary and travel arrangements & involvement with the marketing team. A Diligent, Articulate, individual with a solid career background & of Graduate level. Age 27+W4W 60 wpm.

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Fax 0171 209-9897

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

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Touring Department

- The Touring Department at the Arts Council aims to increase the diversity of high-quality performing arts work available to regional audiences. It has a particular focus on regional presenting venues and interest in the actual and potential behaviour of regional audiences. It also works extensively with touring companies, both long-term funded organisations and one-off projects.

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- 22 days annual leave to start. Pension scheme.

For further details and an application form, please send a self-addressed envelope (at least 8"x5") quoting ref: CA, to the Personnel Department, Arts Council, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ. Alternatively, telephone 0171 973 6448 between 10am and 4pm only. Minicom users may contact the Council on 0171 973 6564. Closing date for receipt of completed applications: Wednesday 9 April 1997.

The Arts Council is committed to an equal opportunities recruitment policy.

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

CONFERENCE Organisers - Junior Admin Assistant, needed to support busy manager in young, dynamic co, Hammersmith. Lots of contact with clients & suppliers. Prospects for someone with initiative. Spanish useful. Salary £13,000. Pls call Benedicte Lecuyer on 0171 390 7000 CRONE CORKILL MULTILINGUAL Rec Cons.

DESIGN flair sales administrator. NW2 c£13-15K. Unique 0181 455 8187.

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HAVE you got what it takes?? Bright, enthusiastic, willing Admin. Assistant req. to assist Consumer PR Mgr with hectic work schedule. Must have the ability to juggle a variety of tasks, willingness to become fully involved and sharp on the uptake! Basic typing req. 45 wpm, plus PC exp, essential ideally Amipro. To start ASAP. Salary c£15k A.A.E. Please call *Sue Cooke Rec 0171 290 2602*

INDEPENDENT Sixth Form College seeks Junior Secretary to provide all round support in Reception area. Must be well presented, articulate, able to work in a team and have good typing/WP skills. Send CV in first instance to: Elizabeth Richards, Principal, Davies Laing and Dick College 10 Pembridge Square London W2 4ED Tel: 0171 727 2797 or fax cv to 0171 792 0730

BANKING

RESEARCH Banking Coordinator 24K. Move away from secretarial. Involvement, initiative, inquisitive.! Leverage Co. Merger and Acquisitions. Call Eurecruit 0171 222 1515.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

FIRST CREME

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PERFECT for the secretarial college leaver who would like to "get into legal". Zippy firm of city lawyers will welcome you with gen. £EX and lots of support. Good typing & WP skills ess!! 0171 556 7075 Robert & Young Rec Cons.

BOND STREET ART GALLERY JUNIOR SECRETARY/ PA

£12,000

Good WP skills, organisational ability and smart presentation. Would suit bright, recently qualified person interested in learning. CV with handwritten letter please to Waterhouse & Dodd, 110 New Bond Street, W1Y 0RL

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Foxtons require a young enthusiastic receptionist to work within a group of highly motivated property negotiators. Applicants need to be well presented, personable with an enthusiastic professional telephone manner, good comp skills and ability to work in a hectic environment. Must live in central London. Sal up to £13,500. Ideally aged 19-23.

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APRIL 97-Jan 98. Maternity leave PA/Sec for Executive Vice President near Liverpool St. Small Investment Co need professional sec. for smart office. Good all-rounder, Windows, P/Point + Excel. Good all-rounder, shorthand. Age 25-35 £11-12 per hr. King + Toben Rec 0171 629 9648 Fax 0171 408 0579.

CAREER PA. £22K. True 1:1 role supporting Snr. Ptnr. of Top Internat. City firm. Commitment ess. as hrs can be long (O/T paid). High degree of [illegible] to project manage + prov. bus/personal supp. 60 wpm + MS Office. 0171 287 3664 NEXT EMPLOYMENT.

CHAIRMAN'S P.A. c.25K 1-1 format. Splendid offices nr. Liverpool St. Outstanding communication skills, exc. presentation, 'A' Ed. are prerequisites. Skills 90/70. Tel: Josephine Morrison Rec. Cons 01233 850700 to 9.00 p.m. Fax 01233 850002.

CHAIRMANS PA £25k + Bens W1 Ad Agency. Exp working at Snr level pref within media environment rusty s/h, Powerpoint & Windows essential. Charming boss! Age 30+ Call Dee 0171 494 4020 WF Agy.

CHARISMATIC, controversial boss needs programme director and secretary. Fun job. c£15-18K. Unique 0181 455 8187.

DEPARTMENTAL Secretary / Administrator required for prestigious multinational communications company in Old Street. Salary to £18,500 + superb benefits. Minimum requirements are 50 wpm typing, advanced Excel, with Word for Windows and PowerPoint. 75% admin. Interested? Call Deborah at Pan European now on 0171 734 8484 or fax your CV on 0171 734 8501.

DEREK LOVEJOY PARTNERSHIP require a keen and dynamic Design Team Secretary to join our international design studio. Excellent WP (W4W) and telephone manner essential. Photo and CV please by fax or E-mail to Christine Cole, Derek Lovejoy Partnership, 8-11 Denbigh Mews, London SW1V 2HQ. Fax: 0171 630 6958. E-mail DE Murray@DLPplc.co.uk. Derek Lovejoy Partnership plc is an equal opportunities employer.

EXPERIENCED personal secretary of mature age required for famous author, central West End in pleasant surroundings. Good shorthand essential. Interesting, unusual and varied job. Top salary. Reply to Box No 3967 (No agencies)

HOLIDAY Co seeks PA to Vice President. Your admin skills will help him (and his Sales Director) to co-ordinate monthly passenger/revenue statistics. Your editorial flair will assist on their client newsletter. Brilliant role for a self-motivated PA! Shorthand/ typing needed (90/55). Salary to £17,000. Please call 0171-494 4466 Gordon Yates Recruitment.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE. Cheerful Secretary/Receptionist for busy office with property people. Good telephone manner and experience essential. Tel: 0171 581 0064.

Tel: 0171 680 6806
Fax: 0171 782 7586
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DUTCH customer services x2 in fashion co. in West London £16K LM Agy 0171 930 1811.

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APPOINTMENTS Bi~LANGUAGE

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We have several exceptional roles for secretaries with either French, German, Spanish or Italian who are looking for varied roles in International environments.
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We have several clients who are looking for top calibre Personal Assistants with fluent French & German for high language content positions. Extensive client liaison & variety. Excellent remuneration for the right people.

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Fax 0171 499 0568
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ADVERTISING PA £22-25,000+ - Chief Executive of top agency req. PA (27-35 yrs) for involving role. PR or Advertising experience imperative. Must have fluent French and senior level exp. WP, Excel/ Powerpoint. Call Lisa. HBK Lewis Rec. Cons. (T)0171 323 5523.

c£18K A Surrey based company urgently seeks PA with fluent French. Financial experience preferred. Euro London Appointments Tel 0171 583 0180 Fax 0171 353 9849.

GERMAN fluency. College leaver /Graduate req'd for interesting Co. in SW3. Full training given and opp's to progress. 40 + Windows, & initiative! £13,000 + Gen. pkge (inc. Bonus). Anderson Hoare 0171 824 8821

BANKING

GERMAN PA - FRANKFURT
To DM80,000
Newly appointed Board Member is looking for PA with several years' exp at senior level. Perfect German, good skills and the polished approach you would expect at this level.

SPANISH & ITALIAN PA - LONDON
c-£22K + pkge
Marketing area: new role for bilingual PA/Secretary with English shorthand, fluent Spanish, at least conversational Italian (or Portuguese?) and a good track record.

Multilingual services
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confident WITH *spoken* Italian?

£21,000 – EC2

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The company: Stylish, very successful US law firm, just moved to superb new offices in the heart of the City.

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The essentials: Solid corporate CV; confident, professional manner; shorthand and typing (90/60); spoken Italian.

Please call 0171-494 4466.

FRENCH bilingual sec (tax useful) for dynamic team of bankers. Gt opp for admin sec who thrives in busy environment £18K + bnft bens. Language Matters Agy 0171 930 1811.

FRENCH bil sec for Intl co. Great opp for sec with drive + exp to establish career with prestig co. £16k + bnft bens Language Matters Agy 0171 930 1811.

GERMAN and Russian Project Trainee Assistant 16K Market Research Co. Media based. Grad. req. Exc. prospects. Call Eurocraft 0171 222 1515.

GERMAN & Scandinavian languages: Customer Service role to 1T, Middx/ Surrey. To £18K. Multilingual Services rec cons 0171 930 4880.

ITALIAN Audio Secretary with English to mothertongue and to work for a Partner in this intern. law firm in W1. Very gd wkg conditions. £19,000 - £20,000. Call 0171 734 4449 Pan Europa (Rec. Cons).

JAPANESE City based Bank requires P/T Temp Sec with fluent Japanese and WP skills. £8 p/h. Euro London Appointments 0171 583 0180

NORTHAMPTON: PA/Sec with French & German. To £18K. Multilingual Services rec cons 0171 930 4880.

PARIS - T.M. International has opportunities for Eng MT bilingual secs. 1) Pharmaceutical Co. seeks assistant to Legal Director and audit Manager. 145KF. 2) Int'l Software Co. seeks assistant to European MD. 180KF. 3) Consulting Group seeks top PA to HRD. Exc in Eng & Fr. Excellent salary. Fax your CV today on 00 33 1.47.42.18.87

PARIS: Bilingual (English /French) Exec PA/Secs urgently req'd for Int'l co's. 50wpm + Word/Excel. 120-250 KF. Sheila Burgess Int'l. Tel: 0171 584 6446 or Tel/Fax Paris 0033 1 44 63 02 57/59. Regular interviews London or Paris.

SEC/PA with Italian £21K + Bens. Varied, involved role with friendly Law Firm in the City. Call Julian on 0171 920 0866 Adecco Alfred Marks (Agy).

SPANISH/Italian PA 24k + str.bens. Polished professional PA is sought by top Internet bank. You will have min 5 years sec.exp. inc. SH. Microsoft Office and will be used to working on your initiative. This is a varied role, inc. marketing / admin. work. Exc. career prospects with this company!! Please call Bilingual People on 0171 491 2400 or fax 0171 491 1900.

SPANISH secretaries to £19K + benefits. Your excellent communication and organisational skills are essential for these very involved roles based in Putney and Old Street. Minimum skills are 50 wpm typing and knowledge of MS Office. For more information call Deborah at Pan European on 0171 734 8484 or fax your CV on 0171 734 8501.

SPANISH bil PA/Sec for prestig City co. Work alongside busy Execs, min typ 50wpm. Immed start. £19K + bb Language Matters Agy 0171 930 1811.

RECEPTION SELECTION

PROFESSIONAL Receptionist required for prestigious W1 Management Consultancy. Ideal age 28/40. Salary to £20K + benefits. If you have previous front desk experience combined with a polished appearance, call Anna at Pan European on 0171 734 8484 or fax us your CV on 0171 734 8501 now.

AVAILABLE afternoons?? Rec/ Administrator with sound typing and, ideally, knowledge of MS Office to assist from 1-6pm for Corporate HQ in W1. Must have first-class presentation and the ability to communicate well at all levels. Excellent working environment for exp. professional. Salary to £14K. Please call Sue Cooke Recruitment 0171 290 2402.

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MEDICAL Secretary - Sloane Square - up to £19,000. Leading Professor/Surgeon requires a proactive, experienced clinical secretary to undertake a challenging role in his department. Fast audio/typing and medical shorthand essential. Own office, season ticket loan and five weeks holidays. Please call Jennifer Palmer on 0171 434 4512, Crone Corkill Rec. Cons.

MEDICAL SECRETARY

Required for busy Paediatric practice. Salary according to experience, £17-£20,000.

Please send C.V. in the first instance to Dr R J Pritchard, Portland Hospital Consulting Rooms, 234 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5PH.

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FOXTONS

TRAINEE PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

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Tel: 0171 373 5533.

MEDICAL SECRETARIES

COMPETENT Medical Secretary with good phone manner req'd for busy Harley St practice. Audio typing & computer skills essential. 9-7pm Mon-Fri. £9,000pa neg. Please ring Sophie on 0500 592090.

NON-SECRETARIAL

APRIL- September. Busy EFL registration office in Knightsbridge seeks Assistant. Good IT skills and the ability to work under pressure essential. Languages an advantage. Salary c£13,000. Send/ Fax CV's to Frances King School of English, 195 Knightsbridge, SW7 1RE/0171 838 0303.

APRIL- September. Busy EFL registration office in Knightsbridge seeks Assistant. Good IT skills and the ability to work under pressure essential. Languages an advantage. Salary c£13,000. Send/ Fax CV's to Frances King School of English, 195 Knightsbridge, SW7 1RE/0171 838 0303.

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS

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OFFICE Assistant required in young, busy West End Management Consultancy for general secretarial work, database maintenance, telephone work etc. Windows experience essential. Please send CV to BTS, 3-5 Duke Street, London, W1M 6BA.

PART-TIME mainly evening work for person with school aged children, living in Central London. Interview clients in their own homes for top nanny agency. Apply Personnel Recruitment 0171 935 8247.

PART TIME Reception City 8.30 to 1.30pm. Small city investment Company near Moorgate/ Liverpool St. need recep. to also do some simple typing, book keeping, tel etc. £10K plus 22 days hols, BUPA, non-cont. pension. Age 20-65. King + Toben Recruitment 0171 629 9648 Fax 0171 408 0579.

£11,250 Reception. (8-1pm, 5 days a week). Stunning offices of major international co. in Victoria require a v smart and articulate receptionist with proven reception experience. No switchboard - meeting & greeting, organisation and front of house. If you'd enjoy these benefits (gym, sub restaurant, pension, bonus and more etc) call us immediately. Mahoe-Tucker 0171 734 7341.

RECEPTIONIST 1-7pm for major Docklands investment bank. £13,000 + banking bens. Age 20-35. 0171 493 2888 Heritage Rec.

SECRETARY required for busy plastic surgery practice in Harley Street (Tuesday 9-5, Friday 9-1, and also to cover for holidays etc). Must be experienced in Word for Windows. Please Reply to Box No 4076

PA

Private Client Investment Management company is seeking an experienced, calm & organised secretary with excellent W4W and audio skills to work for a Director and Fund Managers at this friendly company.

JUNIOR SECRETARY

Also seeking a junior secretary with similar skills for receptionist duties and general secretarial support.

Apply in writing with CV to Mrs. Katy Colebrook, Rufler Investment Management Limited, 12 Upper Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9PA.

SECRETARY required 5 mornings weekly 9am-2pm with knowledge of Windows. Salary £8K. Reliable and professional only. Tel: 0171 730 6435.

PROFILES

SENIOR SEC/PA.

English grad. Experienced in Arts, music, charities, education, publishing. Excellent refs. SH/typing 100+/ 70 wpm. Computer literate (MS W4W; WP 5.1), non smoker, seeks F/T perm. position. Finchley/West End or City.

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with substantial experience to work for legal software house, offering helpdesk support and training on this new and exciting customised legal package. The firm are looking for a professional with excellent communication skills to earn £18-20,000.

Contact Elliot or Jane on 0171 242 6633.

LEGAL LA CRÈME

LEGAL LA CRÈME

LEGAL SECRETARY

required for busy City law firm. Must be experienced in civil litigation and be computer-literate (Windows 95/Word 6). Salary negotiable and dependent upon experience. Apply in writing, with c.v., in the first instance to:

Miss Audrey Richardson
Amery-Parkes
Law Courts Chambers
LONDON WC2A 1EN
(NO AGENCIES)

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TEMPS needed, NW London and town 'ad hoc'/long term. Unique 0181 455 8187.

£21,500 Plus

TEMP TO PERM

Join this international corporate finance dept within one of London's leading and prestigious companies. Utilise your excellent secretarial skills and corporate finance exp.

Call Tiffany Spiers
0171 638 0303 (rec con.)

CREME DE LA CREME

SECRETARY WEST END.

2 Directors in this architectural and building surveying company are looking for a flexible secretary with good audio and Word to organise them in this busy residential and community department. Excel and powerpoint an advantage.
State salary req.

Send CV to: Hunter & Partners, 25 North Row, London, W1R 1DJ.

LEGAL LA CRÈME

LEGAL EAGLE
£22,000 TO £24,000

working in firm of Solicitors. A variety of opportunities in this excellent company where you will have opportunities for growth and development. Excellent benefits....

...*please call Caroline on* 0171 499 5881
Adecco Elite (Rec Cons)
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Berkeley Sq., London W1X 7LN

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MEDICAL PA Definitely not a position for the faint-hearted but the rewards for hard work are immense. This dynamic private doctor has a worldwide practice and can jet off at the drop of a hat to visit a patient. Unflappable is, therefore, your middle name and excellent secretarial skills are essential to get things done yesterday. Salary circa £20K plus many benefits. Call Paula on tel: 0171-224 4426.

NW3 - to 19K - Sec/Administrator aged 30+, 50 typ, must be organised, accurate with good phone manner. Legal/medical exp useful. Knightsbridge Secretaries 0171-468 0400.

OFFICE MGR/ PA £22K + BENS. Prestigious W1 property co must have staff supervisory exp & exc PA skills 80 s/h 60 wpm typing. Brill prospects. Call Lynn 0171 494 4020 WF Agy.

PARTNERS PA £16-18k + BENS Lge Plc attending seminars diaries etc WP5.1 or Wins exp 60wpm audio. Exc prospects. Call Michelle 0171 494 4020 WF Agy.

PA/SEC for W/E businessman. Win 95 literate. Must be intelligent, organised and able to work on own initiative. Potentially very rewarding job for self motivator. £17,000. Box No 3875.

PA/SEC for W/E businessman. Win 95 literate. Must be intelligent, organised and able to work on own initiative. Potentially very rewarding job for self motivator. £17,000. Box No 3875.

PERSONNEL ASST/ SEC. To £20K + Bens. Career move for high profile sec. Able to D.W. heavy workload and multi task in demanding env. 60wpm + exc. comm. skills. 0171 287 3644 NEXT EMPLOYMENT.

PROFESSIONAL PA'S to work in busy environment, involved role you will be an integral part of the business. Good organisational and secretarial skills needed. Looking for a career move? Call Caroline to find out more. Adecco Elite (Rec Cons) 0171 499 5881.

£25,000 - RICHMOND. Enjoy being an ambassador? You are a PA with superb organisational skills for this Chief Exec. Top level international liaison. German or Spanish/ European languages useful. 0171 493 7001 SECRETARIES PLUS, the secretarial consultants.

ST JAMES'S Street, SW1, £22,000 + Bups. Small Int. consultancy need A level PA to support 3 Directors. You should enjoy liaising at top level, have 1st class sec skills, inc PowerPoint + Excel and pref. be commercially orientated. King + Toben Rec Cons 0171 629 9648.

SEC/PA £21K + Bens. Varied involved role with friendly Law Firm in the City. Exc prospects. Call Julian 0171 920 0866. Adecco Alfred Marks (Agy).

SECRETARY/REC. for small corporate W1 Co. with an impressive portfolio need a young Sec with 50wpm typing + windows exp. £18,000. Age 20-25. 0171 493 2888 Heritage Rec.

SECRETARY £16K +. City based professional Co. young env. lovely offices, Windows, 50 wpm. If you are well presented and enthusiastic please call ASAP. Alison DSA (agy) 0171 734 4469.

TEMP to Perm. ? Institution needs young intelligent PA. You'll ideally have shorthand, director level exp plus the confidence to deal with VIP's etc. Sal £18,000 + 6wks hols. King + Toben Rec 0171 629 9648.

RECEPTION SELECTION

RECEPTION Manager £22-24000. Large international co. seek an exp. team reception mgr. to manage team of 5 in high profile co with superb office location. You will work as a team member but incorporate additional responsibilities. Age 28-35. King + Toben Rec 0171 629 9648 Fax 0171 408 0579.

RECEPTIONISTS £17,500 pkg Leading City Merchant Bank, pure front-line role, conference room bookings, previous exp. 21-35yrs. Val Wade Rec Cons 0171 437 3793.

TEMPTING TIMES

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£7.50 to £10.00 p/h

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If you are between jobs, looking for a change or just arrived from overseas we have the answer...
...all you need is Secretarial / WP experience to be part of our growing team!!!
Call Amanda *for an immediate consultation on* 0171 836 2282 (Rec Cons)

TEMPTING TIMES

ABSOLUTELY fabulous temping in the West End. We are a privately owned consultancy with a personal approach and friendly and interesting clients. We are currently looking for secretaries and receptionists to fill a variety of bookings. Competitive rates of pay. Call Jo Tennant at Susan Doughty Recruitment on 0171 491 7911 NOW!

RECEPTION SELECTION

Circle Communications plc, an international television rights group, is looking for a "Head of Reception" for its Mortimer Street office, which is also the London base of its subsidiary production company, Oxford Scientific Films.

We are looking for a well presented person, with at least two years reception experience, excellent telephone manner, superb organisational and communication skills, and a flexible and confident personality. A good knowledge of MS Office and WordPerfect 5.1 for MS-DOS is required.

Please apply in writing to Niamh Hiney,
Circle Communications plc, 45-49 Mortimer Street,
London W1N 7TD by April 4.

HAVE YOU GOT PRESENCE?
c. £16,000 + benefits

City company with beautiful offices require an organised, unflappable and immaculate receptionist. Liaise with chef, chauffeur & high profile clients in this friendly and stimulating environment. Suit mature, experienced receptionist with 40 wpm.

Call Pam Goddard on 0171 377 6777 or Fax 377 6879.

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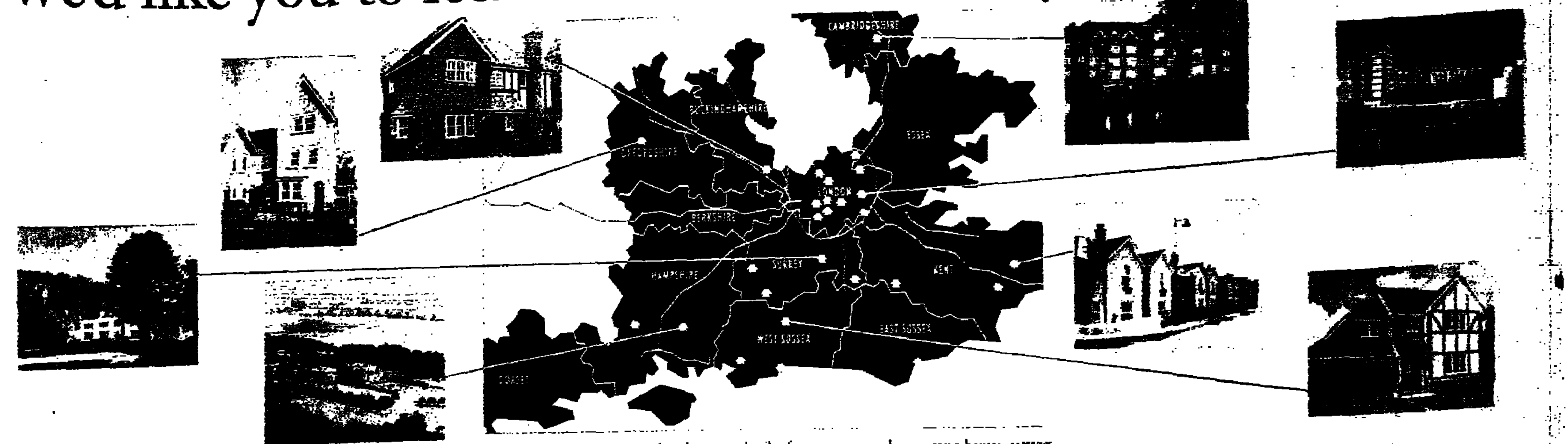

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Woodford Green, *Aarons Court,* Sunset Avenue £135,000 to £155,000

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Winchester, *King Alfreds Fields,** off Romsey Road £189,950 to £225,000

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LONDON

Ludgate, EC4, *The Gallery,* Ludgate Hill £255,000 to £750,000

Marylebone, NW1, *Marathon House,* Marylebone Road £249,950 to £1.75m

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Barnes, SW13, *Barnes Waterside,* Trinity Church Road £285,000 to £1.2 million

Fulham, SW6, *Hurlingham Reach,** Carnwath Road From £247,500

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Islington, EC1, *New River Head,* Rosebery Avenue £180,000 to £[illegible]

Bermondsey, SE1, *Jacob's Island,* nr Tower Bridge £235,000 to £305,000

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Wimbledon, SW19, *Marian Lodge,* The Downs £185,000 to £435,000 OPENS 28TH MARCH

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SUSSEX

Eastbourne, *[illegible]* Court, Selwyn Road £[illegible] to £81,000

Kingsfold, *Kingsfold Park* Marches Road £[illegible] ONLY ONE REMAINING

Oving,* *Oving Place,* Church Lane £122,500 to £295,000

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OXFORDSHIRE

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Hambledon, *Hambledon Park,* Wormley Lane £92,500 to £710,000

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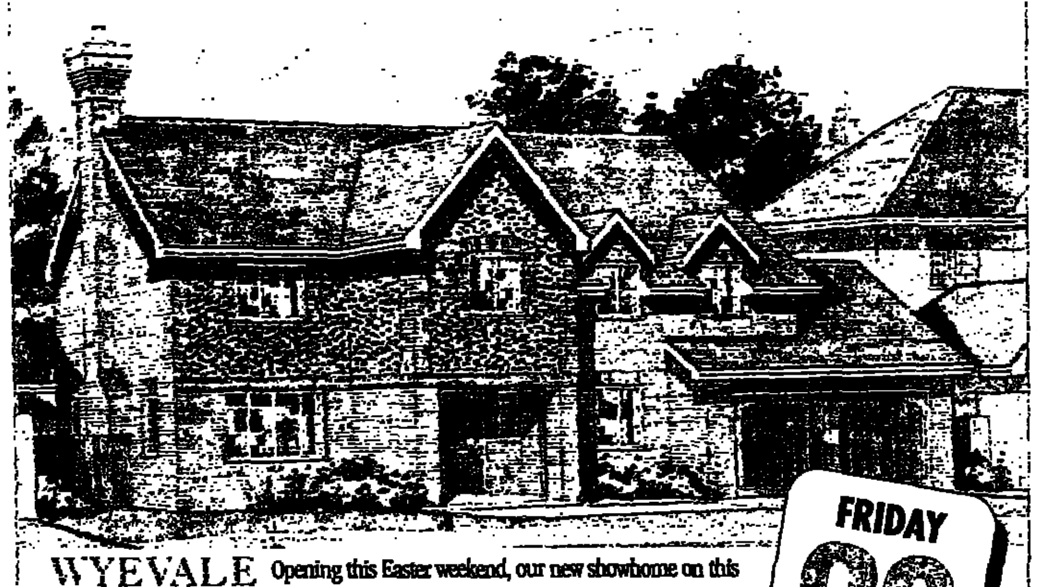

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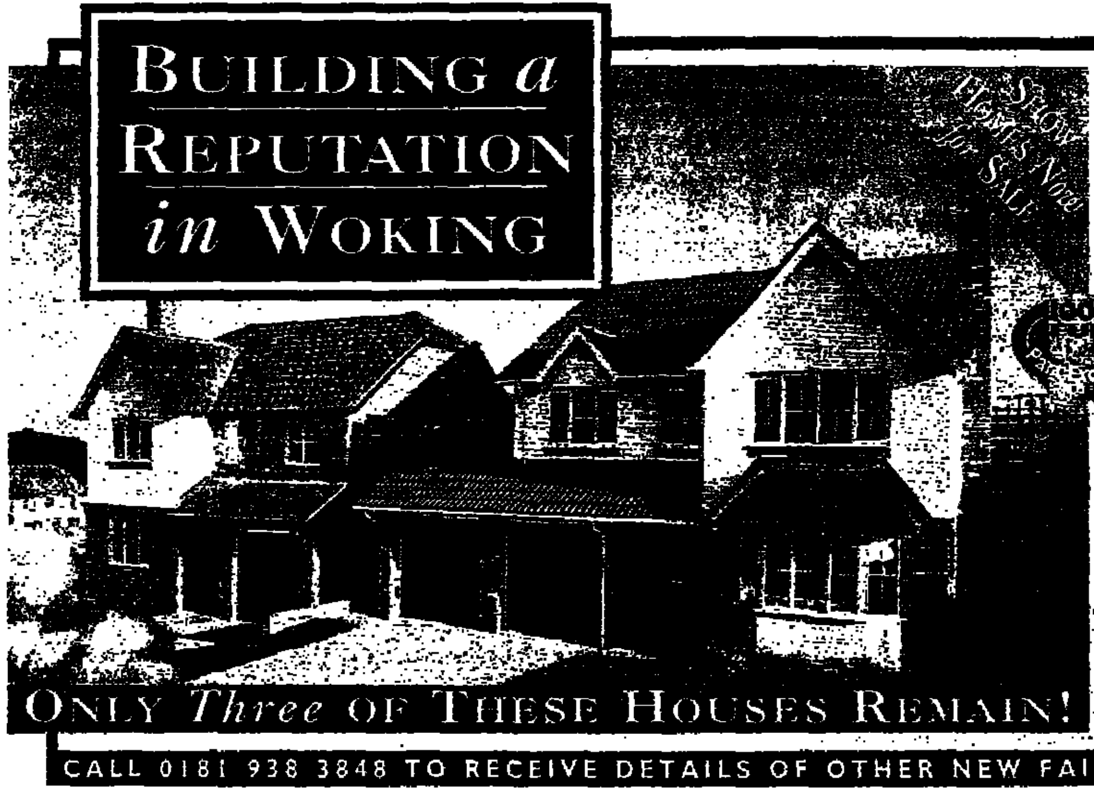

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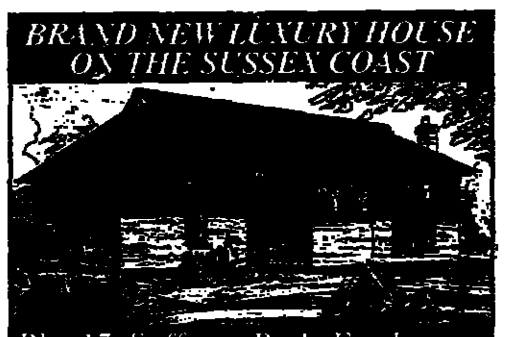

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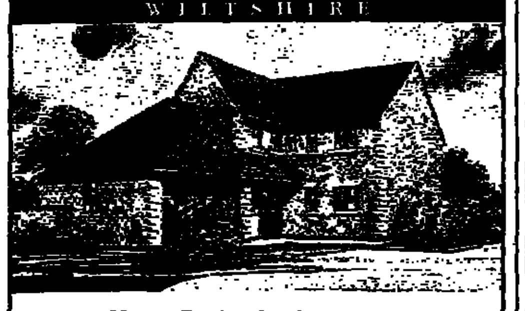

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£145,000 ono

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nr Chichester.

Spacious detached bungalow, built in 1984, in secluded private cul-de-sac a level walk to the centre of the village, shops, beach and harbour.
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COUNTRY PROPERTY

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WEST WITTERING Lovely period house in quiet country setting overlooking farmland. Only 2½ miles from coast. 4 rec. 5 beds. 3 bath. P.G. £400,000. Henry Adams & Perry. 01243 533377

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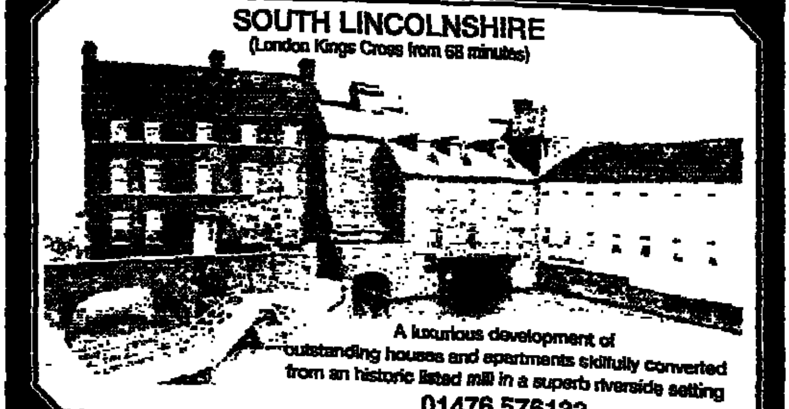

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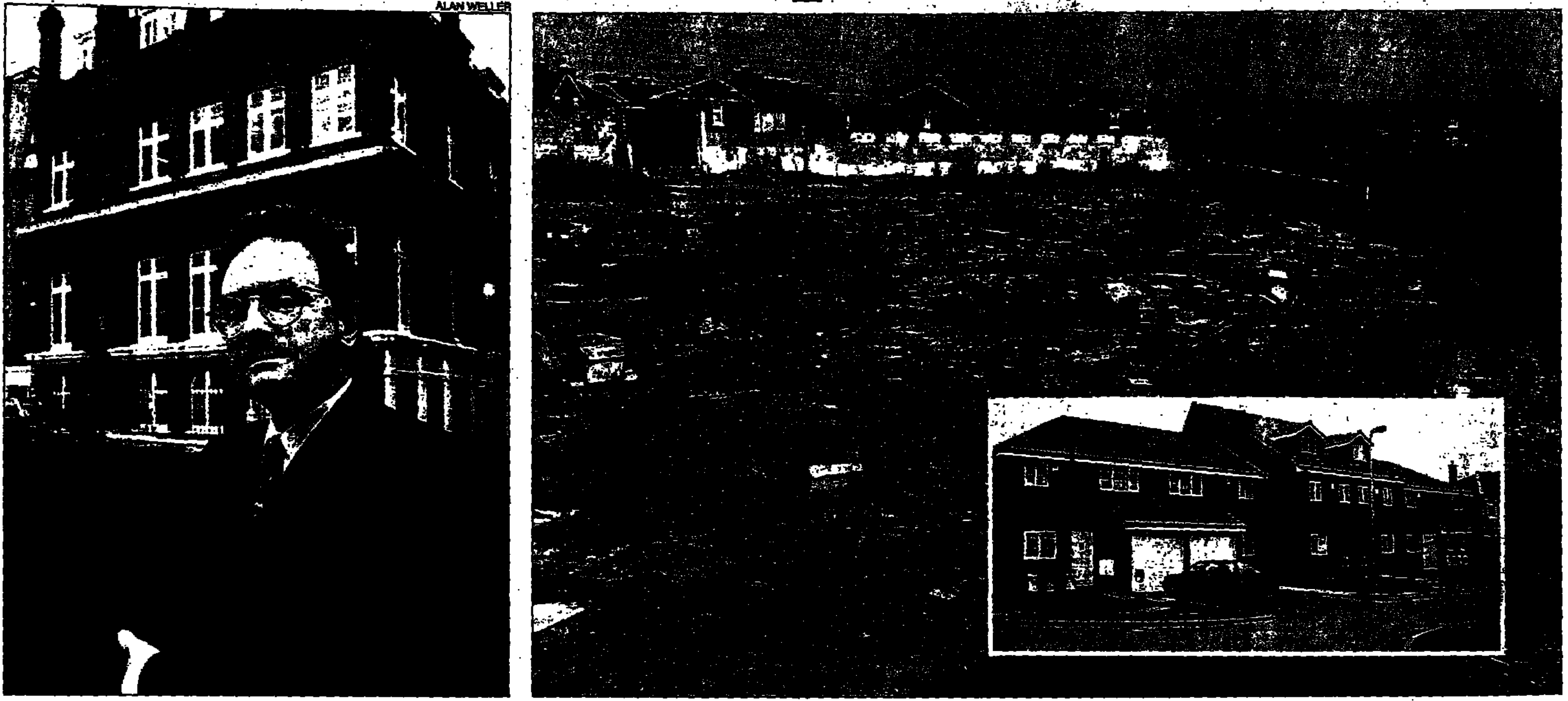
01476 576133

Doctor who heals the poisoned planet

Eve-Ann Prentice talks to the expert who makes contaminated land fit for habitation

ALAN WELLER



Poisoned-land expert Dr Paul Syms and the estate of 119 homes under completion at Salford, Manchester, on the cleaned-up site of an old tram depot which had been contaminated

Paul Syms brings the dead back to life. He knows more than most the truth of the old northern saying, where there's muck, there's brass. He is one of the world's leading experts on the redevelopment and valuation of contaminated land, those skull-and-crossbones sites poisoned by decades or even centuries of abuse.

Now Dr Syms, 50, has been appointed what is believed to be Britain's first Visiting Professor of Land and Property, at Sheffield Hallam University. In a project funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, he is researching how new life can be breathed into contaminated land so it can be used for housing.

He is also a man who has put more than money where his mouth is, by happily seeing his son live in a house on reclaimed land in Manchester while at university.

So how does Dr Syms go about his mission to dig the dirt in places most of us would shudder to go near? And how sure can he be that contaminated land can ever be made really safe?

"The first thing is to look at the historical situation," he says. "You need to go out and walk on site to look at the historical aspects; was it once a railway goods yard, a gas plant or whatever? Sometimes there has been more than one use and you might have to go back 200 years to the beginning of the Industrial Revolution."

After researching the area's past, Dr Syms says he can then judge which contaminants are likely to be found and where to look for "particularly nasty hot-spots". A mechanical digger is usually then sent in to "dig a hole" and the soil analysed.

"Once you have that," he explains, "you can decide what needs to be done. You may treat the contamination by digging it out and treating it on site, or if it is really bad, by removing the contamination completely.

"Sometimes, even if you do all this, the residual risk perception is so great that you have to rule out residential development."

The worst case of contamination he has come across was at an old chemical works in Greater Manchester. "It had been a plant for 80 years, and for 40 years of that time had been run by a very large and responsible company which made its records available. But there had been a practice of burying chemical drums in the soil up to four metres deep. The contamination came to light when the factory closed. It was an impossible site. A real eyesore.

"At another site, an old dye works for 100 years, any waste dyes had been emptied down a drain which ran into the River Mersey. You could see the coloured dyes in the river. The drain was cracked, but it was not found until the factory next door was sold and the new owners wanted to put in a suspended floor and needed access to the old dye factory."

Dr Syms is optimistic, though, that he is winning the battle to reclaim poisoned land. A housing estate of 119 homes is nearing completion at Salford, Manchester, on the site of an old tram depot. "Deep maintenance pits had been filled over the years with zinc and cadmium from batteries, residues from waste oils, waste ashes from local industry, lead and copper," he says. "Two or three years after work started on reclaiming the site, work began on the houses."

No one knows how much contaminated land there is in Britain, says Dr Syms, but he believes sites which have suffered significant harm probably cover fewer than 10,000 acres. "A very large amount has been reclaimed. In terms of urban regeneration projects, in the past 10 years land worth more than £1 billion has been reclaimed — that is end value."

Dr Syms's appointment reflects the growing public concern about the environment.

His faculty at Sheffield has 60 members and 1,200 students and his job is sponsored by the Society for Valuers and Auctioneers.

Married with two adult sons, he is a valuer by training but has spent the past 15 years advising on how old industrial sites can be reclaimed. He feels his work "comes down to a question of risk — actual and perceived risk".

Actual risks are where, for example, there is a danger that the foundations or water supply will be contaminated if a certain site is built on, or there is a possibility of atmospheric fallout from chemical plants.

"Then there are the perceived risks — when people are not happy about having their homes near a landfill site from a chemical plant," he says.

"But the Department of the Environment has been regularly monitoring sites for the past 20 years and I am optimistic that the amount of derelict land is reducing." Dr Syms believes that the greatest risk in the future is from accidents. "I think the likelihood of more contaminated land being produced is unlikely."

One of the phenomena of which Dr Syms has to take account is called the Pica Syndrome, "where children take up handfuls of soil and eat it". But, he adds: "The chances of a child with Pica becoming seriously ill is very remote; they would have to eat massive amounts of soil to come to harm in most cases."

The cost of reviving contaminated land varies enormously, but is usually between £150,000 and £300,000 an acre. "It used to be that digging it out and carting it away was the cheapest method, but now that is very expensive because there are fewer holes in the ground where you can take it.

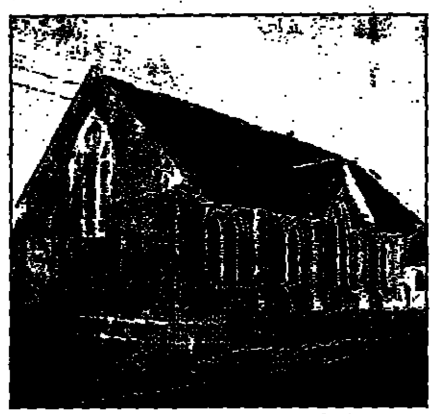
"There are other methods which are more selective, such as using microbes which occur naturally in the ground to digest the contaminants, and organic material is very susceptible to this."

MARKET MOVES

OUT OF SERVICE: a former Methodist church has gone on the market in Peasmarsh near Rye, East Sussex, with the proviso that it must not be used for religious purposes. The building, with planning permission for conversion to a 2-3 bedroomed home, must also never be used as a dance hall, for gambling or the supply or sale of alcohol. Offers around £68,000 are being sought for the building, which also has permission for 2-3 reception rooms, bathroom, guest room with shower room, kitchen, courtyard, garage and garden. For information call Phillips & Stubbs in Rye on 01797 227338.

☐ BATTLE ROYAL: a Devon hotel which has counted Churchill and The Beatles among its guests is to be converted to luxury retirement flats after an eight-year planning dispute. The Royal Hotel in Teignmouth became a near-derelict eyesore as local pressure groups campaigned for the building to remain a hotel. Now McCarthy & Stone have won permission to turn it into 72 retirement flats which are expected to sell for £60,00 to £125,000 each. Many of the apartments will have sea views. The building is separated from the sea by a short stroll across a green called The Den. The listed building will keep its elegant frontage, and a grand central staircase is to be restored. For information call Freephone 0800 919132.

☐ AS THE Edinburgh Festival prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary this year, a huge apartment has gone on sale near the city's West End. The refurbished apartment has four bedrooms, one with en suite dressing room and bathroom, hall, drawing room, dining room, bathroom, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room and shared garden. Offers over £158,000; information from Rettie and Co, Edinburgh on 0131-220 4160.



Going for a song: Peasmarsh church

A new service makes the search for land for an ideal home much easier

In pursuit of the perfect plot

PETER TRIEVNOR

Michael and Emma Holmes on the site of their new house, located through Plotfinder

The first time Paul Mason built his own home, finding a plot of land could not have been easier. He simply sold off his existing house and moved to a site at the bottom of the garden.

Next time, things were different. For two years he scoured the estate agents and local newspapers in Bedfordshire looking for a place on which to build. He finally settled on a quarter of an acre village plot which had been used as a car park.

Three years later, he and his family live in a 2,250 sq ft house with four bedrooms, four reception rooms and a playroom over the garage. Having designed the place himself, it took three-and-a-half months to build using the timber frame method of construction.

Mr Mason says: "We found it very difficult to find small building plots. There was virtually nothing around, and it would probably be even more difficult now."

Around 20,000 people a year are estimated to commission their own homes in the UK and for many of them the toughest hurdle is the first: buying a site on which to set their dreams.

Associated Self Build Architects (ASBA) believe that for every person who built their own home last year, another five had their aspirations frustrated because they were unable to locate a plot.

Julian Owen, the director of ASBA, says: "It is not so much a shortage of land because green-field sites are available for much bigger housing developments. It's the one-off building plots in the country which are so difficult to come by, often because local authorities are reluctant to grant planning permission."

The South East is recognised as being the most difficult area to find modest-sized building plots, but in the South West, Bob Douglas, General Accident's land and new homes manager, says that he usually has 50 people looking for such sites at any one time. "The majority," he adds, "claim to be able to buy the land without selling their house, which makes it very competitive."

It was in response to the difficulties experienced by people looking for parcels of land that the self-build and renovation magazine Individual Homes decided to set up Plotfinder, a database of both building plots and renovation opportunities for sale.

Plotfinder was launched to the public at the magazine's Home Building and Renovating Show last weekend, although readers have been able to avail themselves of the service since November.

So far, there are more than 4,000 entries on the database, but the number is expected to rise considerably. Gill Dawson, who is compiling it, says that empty plots of land either for single or multiple building account for 75 per cent of those entries. Most come with planning permission.

The rest of the database is made up of houses in need of renovation, and schools, barns, stable blocks, churches, railway stations, water towers and other buildings ripe for conversion. Information, constantly updated, is gathered from estate agents, landowners, developers, surveyors, government departments and auctioneers.

Since November more than 2,500 people have used the service, including Michael Holmes, the editor of Individual Homes. He spent eight months ringing around estate agents before finding a half-acre site in an Oxfordshire village through Plotfinder. The former orchard overlooks open countryside and is next to a 12th-century church.

Mr Holmes and his wife Emma paid £90,000 for the site and they expect to move into a four-bedroom "Georgian" stone house in September, designed by Four Square Design, of Berkshire.

There will be flagstones throughout the ground floor, reclaimed floorboards elsewhere, underground heating and sash windows. Cost of building the home should be between £100,000 and £110,000. By the time it is finished, he reckons the property will be worth about £330,000. The average cost of building your own home is £40 to £50 a sq ft.

People who want to use the Plotfinder service must ring a hotline and state which counties they would like details about. There is a subscription service — three months costing £9.99 with four mailings, and six months costing £16.99 with eight mailings. Prices vary greatly. Plotfinder has advertised a site at Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, with consent for a detached house for more than £200,000 and one with permission for a three-bedroom detached house at Manea, Cambridgeshire for £6,500.

There has been an ex-RAF transmitting station in Yorkshire set in two acres for £80,000 and a part-stone building available for conversion to a one-bedroom cottage in Hereford & Worcester for £10,000.

Eight serviced plots at Wigmore in the same county were put onto the database this month for £55,000 each by a company called Homelands of England. The firm was specifically set up last year to acquire small development sites, put in services, and then sell individual plots to those who wish to build or commission houses themselves.

David Rose, the marketing director, says that Homelands is the only company in the UK to deliver this service. More sites in Sussex, Kent, Bedfordshire and Suffolk are being planned.

"We and our private-investor backers envisage a market of huge potential," he says. "Every plot we bring to market we know we will sell."

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

- *Plotfinder's hotline is 0891-516 526 and calls cost 50p a minute. To subscribe, phone 01527-836 600.*

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Virgin flights to Jo'burg worth £80,000 to be won

51 PAIRS OF TICKETS, PLUS TWO NIGHTS AT SABI SABI FOR OUR FIRST PRIZE WINNER

The Times, in association with Virgin Atlantic, gives you and a partner the chance to win return flights on Virgin's service direct from London to Johannesburg, daily from July 15, 1997. We have 51 pairs of return tickets worth a total of £80,000 to give away.

The first prize winner will receive a pair of Virgin Atlantic Economy tickets and two nights at Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve, including flights from Jo'burg to the reserve, adjoining the Kruger National Park.

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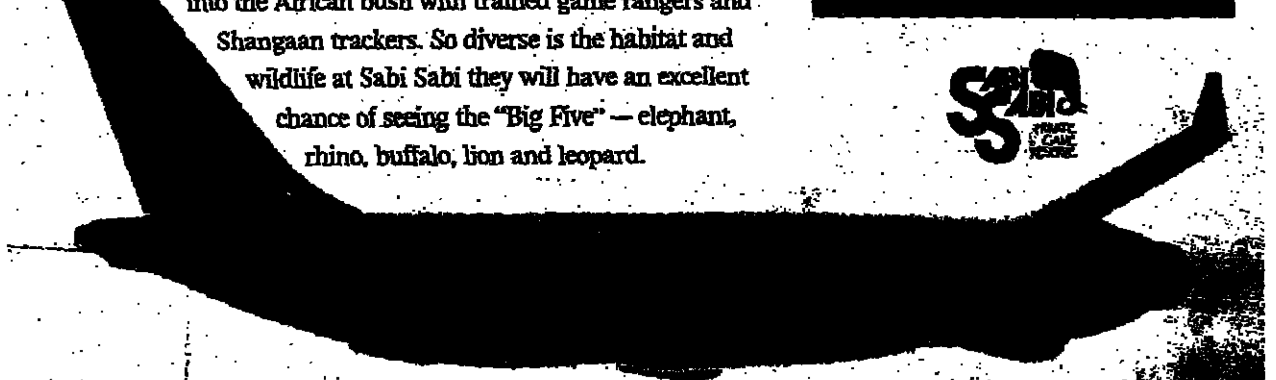

THE TIMES
virgin atlantic
TOKEN 3

HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* this week and answer the question on the entry form which will appear again on Saturday. [illegible] also appeared in Weekend last Saturday, along with [illegible] and conditions. The closing date for entries is Saturday, [illegible] 1997.

CHANGING TIMES

In the Heart of the Kent Countryside

Take an outstanding location in the heart of Kent and add the superlative styling of Countryside's new homes. The result is Sidley Grange, an exclusive development on the outskirts of the pretty Kentish village of Ightham near Sevenoaks close to M26 and 5 minutes drive from Borough Green main line BR Station.

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BATTERSEA Delightful new designer 1 bed flat. 1 min to Chelsea. Opp park. £475pw. 0171 5813355 / 5847350.

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CITY EC4 Unfurn 1 bed flat with river view in portered block. £800 pcm. min 6 months. Frank Harris & Co. 0171 600 7000

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HIGHGATE Lux 2 bed flat nr tube & village, f/f kit, furn/unfurn. £270pw. 0181 341 5876.

ISLINGTON A superb family house in heart of Canonbury. 4 dble bedrms, 2 receps, FF kit, 2 bath, gdn, Unfurn. £650 pw. Copping Joyce 0171 226 4221

KENSINGTON W8 Spacious 2 Bed, 2 Bath, Gym, Pool, Porter £450/w 0171 581 1631

KENS W8 Lux (2x) 2 beds, 2 baths, FF kit, Mins tube/shops. £370/£400 pw. 0171 486 5507

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PARSONS GREEN SW6 Furn/unfurn house, dbl rec, k & b, gdn, 4 beds, 2 baths, £530pw A B & Co 0171 371 0123.

PUTNEY Sunny furn flat. Period building, 2 mins tube/BR, suit single prof, avail immed. £150pw. 01256 398340.

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S. KEN, Lux F/F U/F 2 bed 2 bath Apts, near Tube, £425 pw-£450 pw. Tel: 0171 512 2121.

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SW4 4 bed unfurn family house. Avail immediately. John Hollingsworth 0171 350 1300

SW1 1 bed apt in new development with u/grd pkng. £275 pw inc. KCG 0171 225 3468

SW3 2 double bed, 1 bath 1st floor apt. Nr Sth. Kensington. £350 pw KCG 0171 225 3468

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SW7 Immaculate 3 bed duplex apartment. Nr Sth Kensington. £575 pw KCG 0171 225 3468

SW1 PIMLICO Newly decorated 1 bed. Recep Kit & Shwr rm. £210 pw All inc. 0171 976 6957

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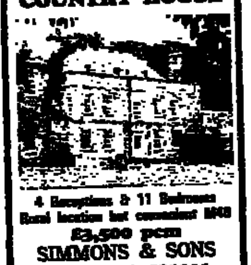

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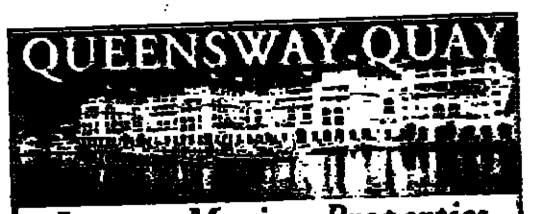

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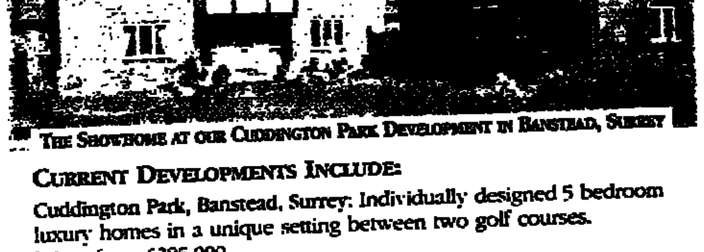

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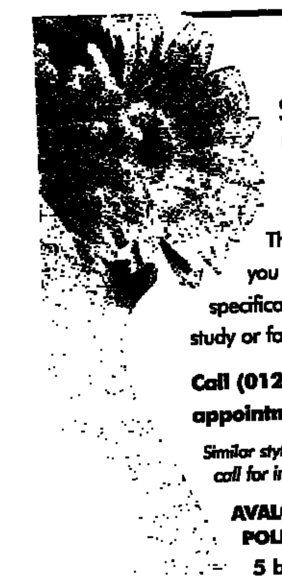

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[illegible]

RACING: INSIDE BERTHS LESSEN PROSPECTS OF FIGURING IN DUBAI WORLD CUP FINISH

Draw leaves British party feeling low

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT IN DUBAI

THE post position draw for ten-furlong races is often of no consequence but the fates yesterday conspired against Britain's five-strong challenge for the Emirates Dubai World Cup here on Saturday.

Already stacked against the quintet is the dirt surface over which none except Bijou D'Inde has ever competed — and his recent effort was but a pale shadow of the horse who triumphed at Royal Ascot. After yesterday's draw ceremony, attended by Prince Edward, the effect of the alien surface will be compounded by the kickback they are destined to experience in the scramble for a share of $4 million.

The five are sandwiched between stalls one and seven, effectively locked against the inside rail. Siphon and Key Of Luck, a pair of front-running bullies, are certain to kick sand into British faces from stalls 12 and 13 respectively. A swift break will be essential to minimise the dry and forboding taste of the desert.

Collectively, Even Top (stall one), Singspiel (two), Bijou D'Inde (five), Flemensfirth (six) and Luso (seven) comprise as talented a team to have carried the torch abroad. But when Siphon, one of three American entrants, and Key Of Luck, representing Dubai, leave the stalls, they are expected to make straight for the inside rail and establish themselves at the front.

The ramifications of any bunching will invariably be felt on the inner, where any horse gasping for air will instead ingest a mouthful of dirt. The only viable option involves retreating to the rear early on, but that would necessitate horses circling the field at the finish. This race has attracted 13 horses with the highest average rating ever assembled. Conceding precious ground at the start is therefore fraught with danger.

Mark Tompkins, who trains Even Top, the mount of Richard Hills, acknowledged the point. "There is a lot of speed on the outside," Tompkins said. "Since he arrived here two months ago my horse has done all his work behind a lead to prepare him for the kickback. He has worked well on a number of different surfaces but we certainly could have done with a better draw."

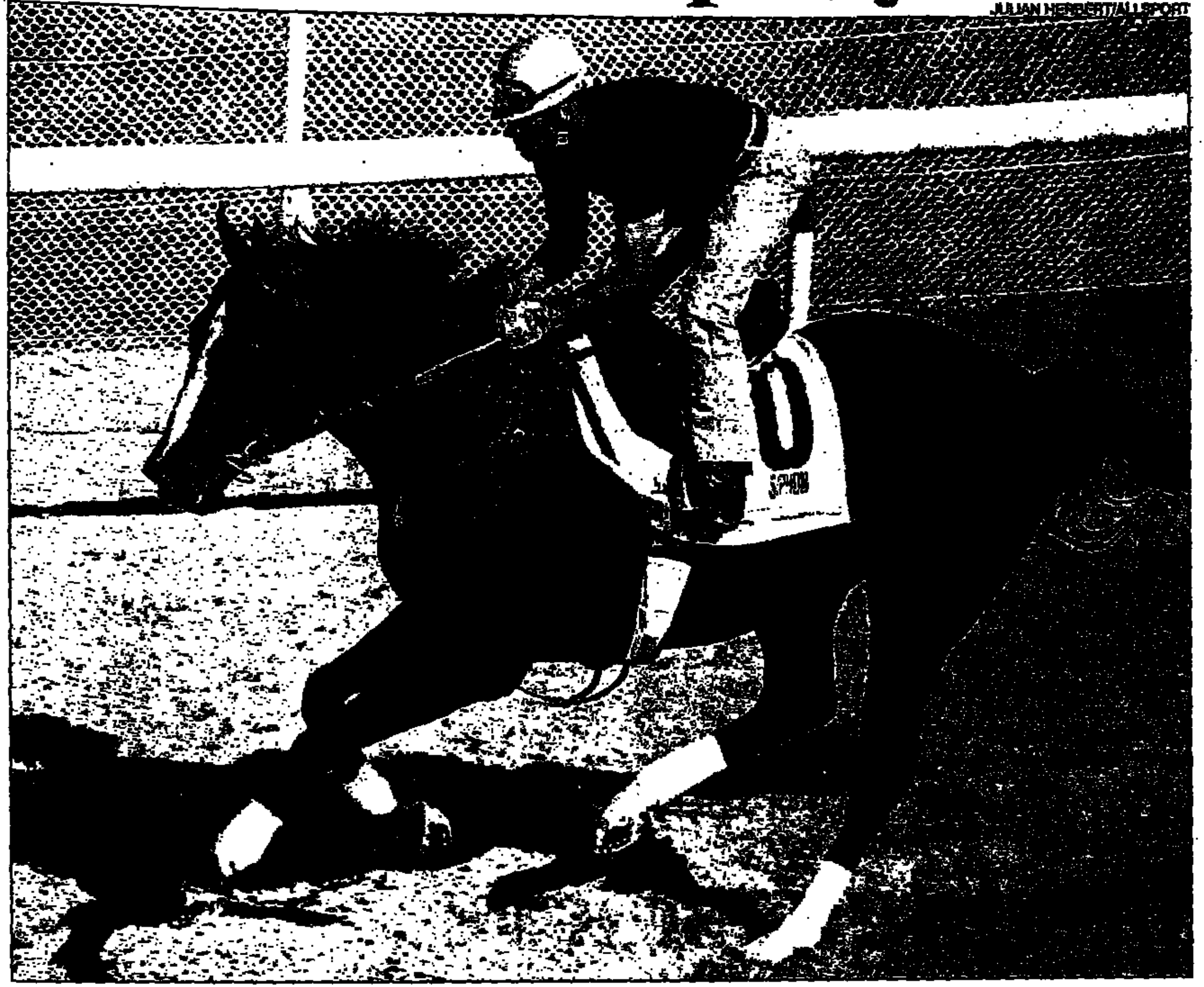
Hills, who has enjoyed a successful winter riding in Dubai, also recognised the handicap of the inside berth. "Even Top is going to feel the sand in his face straight away. This is a big track with plenty of room to manoeuvre, but ideally we could have done with a stall between six and ten."

Helissio, majestic winner of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in October and the sole French raider, has been similarly compromised in stall four.

If the draw has frowned on British interests, Richard Mandella, the California-based trainer, was entitled to a wry smile. Mandella has two prime candidates in Siphon, the 5-2 favourite, and Sandpit, second best in the betting at 7-2, yet he was not inclined to trumpet his chances. It was Mandella who, with Soul Of The Matter, all but lowered Cigar's colours in the inaugural Dubai World Cup running 12 months ago. The memories have clearly lingered with this most affable individual.

Mandella said after the draw: "Watching the replay of last year's race got my stomach up for this one. The World Cup has its own mystique, with all these horses from the corners of the earth. I believe it is properly named because there are dangers everywhere I look. I cannot split my two horses but what I do know is that two bullets are always better than one."

Britain's trainers may have five bullets but after yesterday's draw the suspicion is they will all be staring down the empty chamber on Saturday night.


JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

American challenger Siphon, favourite for Saturday's Dubai World Cup, is put through his paces at Nad Al Sheba

---

Suny Bay, a leading Grand National contender, will be partnered by Jamie Osborne rather than Graham Bradley, who rides most of Charlie Brooks's horses (Richard Evans writes). Brooks said yesterday: "It was a difficult decision, but Jamie rode him when he won at Haydock."

Toby Balding, the Weyhill trainer, was successful in his appeal yesterday against a £1,000 fine for the running of Polden Pride under the non-triers' rule at Exeter last week. A 30-day ban on the horse was quashed, but Barry Fenton, Polden Pride's jockey, will have to serve a six-day ban.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

2.20 Keen To Please. 2.50 Abstone Queen. 3.25 Foist. 3.55 Marylebone. 4.30 Karisma. 5.05 Love Me Do.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: **3.25 FAME AGAIN.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 5.05 Little Acorn.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 SPRINGTIME LIMITED STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,511: 5f) (8 runners)

1	(3)	6252	MASTER FOLEY 25 (G) N Littmoden 9-0	T G McLaughlin	96
2	(8)	1	BONYALUA MILL 12 (S) A Streeter 8-11	R Havlin (3)	84
3	(7)	40-3	SODA 23 (B,BF) T Barron 8-11	R Lappin	90
4	(2)	034-	WILLIAM'S WELL 138 M W Easterby 8-11	Dale Gibson	87
5	(4)	236-	GOLD EDGE 158 M Channon 8-8	R Perham	[illegible]
6	(1)	342-	KEEN TO PLEASE 158 (D,G) Denys Smith 8-8	J Carroll	98
7	(6)	040-	LOCH-HURN LADY 152 K Hogg 8-8	K Darley	90
8	(5)	240-	MOLLY MUSIC 113 (B) G Margarson 8-6	G Carter	80

3-1 William's Well, 7-2 Keen To Please, 4-1 Master Foley, 9-2 Bonyalua Mill, 5-1 Soda, 10-1 Loch-Hurn Lady, 12-1 others.

2.50 FORCETT PARK SELLING STAKES
(£2,374: 7f) (14)

1	(12)	26-6	MILETRIAN CITY 35 (B,D,F) J Berry 4-9-10	K Darley	84
2	(7)	3110	SENSE OF PRIORITY 5 (CD,F,G) D Nicholls 6-9-10	Alex Greaves	98
3	(1)	0/0	CHINOUR 37 (D,F,B) E Alston 9-9-6	S Drowne	–
4	(11)	40-0	DASHING DANCER 9 D Shaw 6-9-6	J Fanning	79
5	(3)	-030	DICTATION 11 J J O'Neill 5-9-6	J Fortune	81
6	(10)		HANBY J Goldie 5-9-6	J Carroll	
7	(4)	50-0	KASS ALHAWA 81 D Chapman 4-9-6	A Culhane	90
8	(5)	0005	LOCH STYLE 11 (F,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-6	F Lynch (3)	97
9	(9)	500-	SIR SILVER SOX 158 (F,G) N Tinkler 5-9-6	Kim Tinkler	–
10	(6)		INCANTRICE W Storey 4-9-1	P Fessey (5)	
11	(8)	03-	MYSTIC MAID 320 J L Harris 4-8-7	D McKeown	88
12	(14)	06-	KICKONSUN 215 R Fahey 3-8-5	R Winston (7)	–
13	(2)	-485	ABSTONE QUEEN 25 (V,CD,F,G) P Evans 3-8-4	J F Egan	[illegible]
14	(13)	513-	SOVIET LADY 169 (D,G) J Eyre 3-8-0	T Williams	95

11-4 Sense Of Priority, 5-1 Sir Silver Sox, 6-1 Mystic Maid, 7-1 Soviet Lady, 10-1 Miletrian City, Abstone Queen, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Channon, 9 winners from 36 runners, 25.0%; N Tinkler, 4 from 19, 21.1%; Mrs M Reveley, 18 from 97, 18.6%; J L Harris, 3 from 17, 17.6%; T Easterby, 4 from 25, 16.0%; K Hogg, 5 from 32, 15.6%.

JOCKEYS: F Lynch, 4 winners from 16 rides, 25.0%; J Egan, 3 from 13, 23.1%; K Darley, 26 from 131, 19.8%; J Carroll, 25 from 149, 16.8%; J Fortune, 13 from 96, 13.5%; G Carter, 6 from 45, 13.3%; P J Fessey, 4 from 32, 12.5%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ascot: 2.30 Who Is Equiname.

3.25 GODS SOLUTION HANDICAP (£3,769: 7f) (19)

1	(16)	255-	TRAFALGAR LADY 171 (S) J Glover 4-10-0	T Pengilorego (7)	89
2	(5)	000-	QUEENS CONSUL 137 (CD,F,G) B Rothwell 7-9-11	M Fenton	93
3	(4)	050-	KESTON POND 141 (D,F,G) Mrs V Aconley 7-9-9	M Deering	91
4	(11)	220-	NO CLICHES 160 (F) D Nicholls 4-9-8	Alex Greaves	89
5	(6)	51-1	TATIKA 25 (F,B) G Wragg 7-9-8	G Milligan (5)	97
6	(18)	5221	GENUINE JOHN 12 (D,G) J Parkes 4-9-2	J Bramhill (5)	90
7	(1)	2211	RAMBO WALTZER 18 (D,G) D Nicholls 5-9-0	Iona Wands (7)	90
8	(19)	1040	THREE ARCH BRIDGE 23 (B,G) M Johnston 5-8-13	M Roberts	94
9	(17)	30-6	ALLINSON'S MATE 22 (B,CD,F,G) T Barron 9-8-11	Victoria Appleby (7)	91
10	(9)	2-51	SIHAR 41 (G) J Carr 4-8-9	A Culhane	90
11	(2)	8250	NAUGHTY PISTOL 26 (V,F,G) P Evans 5-8-8	J F Egan	92
12	(8)	005-	FAME AGAIN 138 (D,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 5-8-8	J Fortune	[illegible]
13	(13)	3458	GULF SHAADI 33 (D,G) E Alston 5-8-7	S Drowne	95
14	(12)	344-	HEATHYARDS LADY 172 (CD,F,G) R Hollinshead 6-8-6	F Lynch (3)	90
15	(3)	4045	PAINT IT BLACK 47 (D,G) D Nicholls 4-8-4	Carolyn Bales (7)	97
16	(14)	342-	CEE-JAY-AY 148 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 10-8-3	P Fessey (5)	88
17	(15)	065-	BOLLIN DOROTHY 172 (CD,S) T Easterby 4-8-3	J Carroll	87
18	(7)	330-	FOIST 165 (G) M W Easterby 5-7-10	L Charnock	90
19	(10)	D063	CHEERFUL GROOM 9 (D,F) D Shaw 6-7-10	R Ffrench (7)	89

5-1 Tatika, 6-1 Rambo Waltzer, 8-1 Fame Again, 10-1 Foist, No Cliches, Genuine John, Cee-Jay-Ay, 12-1 others

3.55 TOYTOP MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,431: 5f 212yd) (9)

1	(2)	3200	BLUE LUGANA 9 N Bycroft 5-9-10	J Bramhill (5)	70
2	(4)	00-0	DEARDAW 21 Miss L Siddall 5-9-5	T Siddall (7)	–
3	(6)	200-	MERRILY 169 Miss S Hall 4-9-5	J Fortune	[illegible]
4	(3)	0	RISKY LOVER 9 D Shaw 4-9-5	J Fanning	–
5	(9)	042	BARWELL BOY 12 J L Harris 3-8-11	L Charnock	82
6	(7)	420-	MARYLEBONE 159 J Berry 3-8-11	K Darley	90
7	(1)	4-	THREE FOR A POUND 284 J Glover 3-8-11	G Carter	89
8	(8)		IMPETUOSITY C Thornton 3-8-6	D McKeown	–
9	(5)	3-44	SPLASHED 12 T Barron 3-8-6	R Lappin	95

2-1 Marylebone, 3-1 Splashed, 7-2 Three For A Pound, 7-1 Merrily, 8-1 Barwell Boy, 14-1 Impetuosity, 16-1 Blue Lugana, 20-1 others.

4.30 YARM HANDICAP (£3,743: 1m 5f 175yd) (13)

1	(2)	345-	WELSH MILL 212 (D,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-0	A Culhane	88
2	(9)	050-	EMBRYONIC 158 (F) M Todhunter 5-9-10	J Carroll	90
3	(11)	212-	ROYAL EXPRESSION 201 (G) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-8	K Darley	89
4	(4)	10-3	DIRAB 12 (D,F,G) T Barron 4-9-7	R Lappin	92
5	(5)	234-	FIELD OF VISION 18J (F,G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 7-9-5	J Supple	90
6	(8)	36-3	MISTER ASPECTO 13 (V,F,G) M Johnston 4-9-1	M Roberts	96
7	(7)	330-	KARISMA 137 Denys Smith 4-8-6	J Fortune	97
8	(6)	3024	DANCING CAVALIER 6 (G) R Hollinshead 4-8-4	F Lynch (3)	[illegible]
9	(3)	001-	SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 8J (S) D Barker 6-8-2	D Moffatt (3)	92
10	(10)	304-	ANCHORENA 75J (F) D Barker 5-7-13	T Williams	89
11	(13)	4-10	NORTHERN MOTTO 33 (G,S) J Goldie 4-7-12	Dale Gibson	94
12	(1)	00-4	HASTA LA VISTA 12 (B,G) M W Easterby 7-7-10	L Charnock	87
13	(12)	04-0	BORN A LADY 12 (B,G) Mrs V Aconley 4-7-10	M Deering	91

9-2 Royal Expression, 5-1 Dirab, 6-1 Mister Aspecto, Field Of Vision, 7-1 Dancing Cavalier, 8-1 Welsh Mill, 10-1 Karisma, 12-1 others

5.05 WHORLTON HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,457: 1m 3f 214yd) (8)

1	(7)	1530	HEAD GARDENER 5 (G) N Littmoden 9-7	T G McLaughlin	89
2	(3)	3231	LOVE ME DO 30 (D,G) M Johnston 9-4	M Roberts	91
3	(8)	-212	AMICO 25 (G) C Thornton 9-2	D McKeown	94
4	(4)	05-2	LITTLE ACORN 21 S Williams 9-2	K Darley	90
5	(5)	400-	WILDMOOR 175 J Bethell 8-11	S Drowne	80
6	(2)	008-	PUPIL MASTER 142 Denys Smith 8-1	F Lynch (3)	88
7	(1)	0-50	KINGDOM PEARL 47 M Camacho 7-12	L Charnock	92
8	(6)	4-15	BROCTUNE LINE 35 (G) Mrs M Reveley 7-12	D Wright	[illegible]

11-4 Little Acorn, 3-1 Amico, 7-2 Love Me Do, 6-1 Head Gardener, 7-1 others.

Garnwin can extend sequence

ASCOT

BBC2

2.30: Exterior Profiles is not the most proficient jumper but he put in a better round when third to Garnwin at Warwick 25 days ago. That represents the best chasing form on show here. The slower pace over today's longer trip should help his cause.

Jultara, 15 lengths second to Go Ballistic in this race last year, has produced two reasonable efforts this term and is sure to be staying on. He would ideally prefer easier ground. Who Is Equiname is not out of it judged on placed efforts behind Bell Staffboy and Master Toby, but has not raced before on ground this quick.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Major Nova improved on previous chasing form when a half-length second to Him Of Praise in a novice chase at Towcester earlier this month.

BBC1

3.05: Greenback is the form choice on his victory against Mister Drum at Kempton on Boxing Day and third to Land Afar over the same track. However, he is not built to carry big weights and may be worth opposing against some progressive rivals. The form of Master Toby's win at Leicester on his seasonal reappearance was boosted when the runner-up won subsequently, but the seven-year-old is not certain to appreciate the step back in trip.

Garnwin has taken to fences and jumped impressively when completing a treble at Warwick 25 days ago. His previous win over Flight Lieutenant has worked out solidly and he is weighted to complete a four-timer.

3.35: If Mister RM is none the worse for his fall at Cheltenham last time, he must go close. The five-year-old was upsides the leaders in the Supreme Novices when falling three out and had previously run Sanmartino to two lengths at Kempton.

However, in a race where there should be plenty of pace it could be worth taking a risk with **Rosencrantz** who has conditions in his favour. Best on fast ground in a truly run race over two miles, he encountered heavy ground last time, having previously been beaten over an extended 2½ miles. He should go well here at attractive odds.

RICHARD EVANS

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ROSENCRANTZ
(3.35 Ascot)

Next best: Garnwin
(3.05 Ascot)

ASCOT

THUNDERER

2.00 The Flying Phantom
2.30 Major Nova
3.05 **GARNWIN** (nap)
3.35 Rosencrantz
4.10 Tribune
4.45 Quiet Confidence
5.15 Spirit Of Steel

Cad Evans: 4.45 Quiet Confidence.

[illegible]

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 CITY INDEX SPREAD BETTING NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,745: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1	1F	THE FLYING PHANTOM 15 (G) (P Betts (Holdings) Ltd) M Tompkins 6-11-7	R Greal	94
2	324412	FLYING FIDDLER 20 (B,CD,F) (M Roberts) M Roberts 6-11-2	P Henley (3)	[illegible]
3	20	GLIDE PATH 32 (B Shand) J Jenkins 8-11-2	J Osborne	87
4	3-3043	IVORY COASTER 42 (D Andrews) B De Haan 8-11-2	C Llewellyn	96
5	P540	LATAHAAB 14 (Sir Eric Parker) J Gifford 6-11-2	P Hide	96
6	0-PF	LORD LOVE 11 (J Corbett) P Cummings 5-11-2	A Thornton	–
7	65-5036	SYMPHONY'S SON 33 (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 6-11-2	R Johnson	89
8	60-050	WALTER'S DESTINY 28 (C Mitchell) C Mitchell 5-11-2	S McNeill	76
9	0	ZIPALONG 41 (N Bancks) Mrs P Townsley 6-11-2		
10	1021	DISALLOWED 32 (D,G) (Million In Mind Pinns) Miss H Knight 4-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	93

BETTING: 6-4 The Flying Phantom, 7-2 Disallowed, 6-1 Flying Fiddler, 7-1 Symphony's Son, 8-1 Ivory Coaster, 12-1 Glide Path, 14-1 Latahaab, 16-1 others.

1996: MIROSWAKI 6-11-6 R Dunwoody (8-15 fav) R Akehurst 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

THE FLYING PHANTOM fell 2nd in Grade I Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham, previously beat Give and Take 1½l in 18-runner maiden hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good). FLYING FIDDLER 1¾l 2nd of 4 to Northern Starlight in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good). GLIDE PATH 37l last of 7 to Sanmartino in Grade II Dovecote Novices' Hurdle at Kempton (2m, good). IVORY COASTER 8¾l 3rd of 15 to Herbal House in novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). LATAHAAB 59l 16th of 17 to Istabraq in Grade 1 Royal SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). Previously 10¾l 4th of 12 to Royalino in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good) with SYMPHONY'S SON 18l 6th. DISALLOWED beat Topaglow 1¾l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good).
Selection: DISALLOWED

2.30 FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES NOVICES CHASE
BBC2

(£10,892: 3m 110yd) (8 runners)

1	PP003P	BALLYDOUGAN 11 (V) (Mrs R Mattana) R Mathew 9-11-8	D Walsh	72
2	4P2PP2	BROWN ROBBER 15 (W Henderson) Mrs R Henderson 9-11-8	B Fenton	62
3	31-F4U8	EXTERIOR PROFILES 25 (F,G) (Exterior Profiles) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-8	T J Murphy	[illegible]
4	44/0-3PF	GLENDINE 12 (T King) C Mann 7-11-8	J Railton	50
5	22P-U22	JULTARA 19 (S) (A Elliott) I Williams 8-11-8	B Powell	87
6	PPP052	MAJOR NOVA 20 (B,S) (Mrs G List) N Smith 8-11-8	J Culloty	84
7	36-F403	PENNCALER 26 (B) (Mrs A Taylor) P Hobbs 7-11-8	R Dunwoody	72
8	00/6-432	WHO IS EQUINAME 29 (B,BF,S) (L Wilson) N Henderson 7-11-8	M A Fitzgerald	85

BETTING: 9-4 Exterior Profiles, 7-2 Who Is Equiname, 5-1 Jultara, 6-1 Penncaler, 8-1 Major Nova, 12-1 Glendine, 25-1 others.

1996: GO BALLISTIC 7-11-8 M A Fitzgerald (9-4 fav) J O'Shea 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

BROWN ROBBER 4l 2nd of 4 to Red Branch in novices' handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, good). EXTERIOR PROFILES 2¼l 3rd of 9 to Garnwin in novices' handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f, good). JULTARA ½l 2nd of 10 to Act The Wag in amateurs' chase at Sandown (3m, good). MAJOR NOVA ½l 2nd of 12 to Him Of Praise in novice chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good to soft) with BALLYDOUGAN 12½l 3rd. PENNCALER 4½l 3rd of 9 to Top Javelin in novices handicap chase at Newbury (3m, good to soft). WHO IS EQUINAME 14l 3rd of 13 to Master Toby in Leicester novices' chase (3m, good) with MAJOR NOVA distant 5th.
Selection: JULTARA

3.05 DAILY TELEGRAPH NOVICES CHASE
BBC1

(Handicap: £14,070: 2m 3f 110yd) (5 runners)

1	3P1113	GREENBACK 32 (D,F,G,S) (J Joseph) P Hobbs 6-11-10	R Dunwoody	91
2	0/1P-432	WILDE MUSIC 126 (F) (A Brodin) C Brooks 7-10-13	D Gallagher	90
3	362/5U-1	MASTER TOBY 28 (G) (R Bissell) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-12	C Llewellyn	90
4	4-B3111	GARNWIN 25 (F,G) (Pioneer Heat-Treatment) N Henderson 7-10-10	M A Fitzgerald	97
5	FU2212	FRAZER ISLAND 20 (BF,S) (Dr B Alexander) R Rowe 8-10-8	D O'Sullivan	[illegible]

BETTING: 9-4 Greenback, 5-2 Master Toby, 3-1 Garnwin, 5-1 Wilde Music, 6-1 Frazer Island.

1996: SOUTHAMPTON 6-10-8 A P McCoy (11-2) G Balding 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

GREENBACK 18l 3rd of 6 to Land Afar in Grade II Pendil Novices' Chase at Kempton (2m 4f 100yd, good). WILDE MUSIC 11l 2nd of 4 to Mulligan in novice chase at Kempton (2m, good to soft). MASTER TOBY beat Lively Knight 1l in 13-runner novice chase at Leicester (3m, good). GARNWIN, completed treble, beat Whirly 1¾l in 9-runner novices' handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good). FRAZER ISLAND 21l 2nd of 10 to Full Of Bounce in novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good).
Selection: GREENBACK

3.35 CITY INDEX SPREAD BETTING HANDICAP HURDLE
BBC1

(£4,856: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1	10-2545	FOURTH IN LINE 60 (D,G,S) (J Nicholls Ltd) M Wilkinson 9-11-10	W Marston	97
2	650010	NON VINTAGE 14 (CD,G,S) (A Mann) M Chapman 6-11-10	W Worthington	95
3	353600	GROUND NUT 13 (D,F,S) (Mrs R Haskins) R Buckler 7-11-8	B Powell	95
4	54142F	MISTER RM 15 (D,F,G,S) (F Mills, W Mills) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-11	D Bridgwater	[illegible]
5	112F3P	ROSENCRANTZ 37 (D,F) (L Fulford) Miss V Williams 5-10-8	R Johnson	91
6	P0554-4	KEEP ME IN MIND 48 (D,F,S) (P Tory) N Mitchell 8-10-8	D Skyrme	98
7	22/13	CHICKAWICKA 109F (D,BF,F) (Merthyr Auctions) B Palling 6-10-0	Mr R Thornton (7)	90

BETTING: 7-4 Mister Rm, 7-2 Ground Nut, 5-1 Fourth In Line, 7-1 Chickawicka, 8-1 Non Vintage, Keep Me In Mind, 10-1 Rosencrantz.

1996: FLYING INSTRUCTOR 6-11-1 R Bellamy (7-2) P Webber 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

FOURTH IN LINE 11½l 5th of 14 to Forestal in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good) with NON VINTAGE (1lb better off) 24l 10th. NON VINTAGE 22l 10th of 28 to Big Strand in Coral Cup at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). GROUND NUT 7¾l 8th of 20 to Barna Boy in County Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good). MISTER RM fell 3 out when in contention in Grade I Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Previously 2l 2nd of 7 to Sanmartino in Grade II Dovecote Novices' Hurdle at Kempton (2m, good). ROSENCRANTZ 2¾l 3rd of 15 to Cittadino in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) last completed outing. KEEP ME IN MIND 38l 4th of 5 in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). CHICKAWICKA 5¼l 3rd of 15 to Hurricane Lamp in Warwick novices' hurdle (2m, good).
Selection: MISTER RM (nap)

4.10 ALPINE MEADOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,925: 3m) (7 runners)

1	0535	TAMARPOUR 14 (B,F,G) (Mrs A Farrant) M Pipe 10-11-10	C Maude	95
2	110114	HALE DERRING 15 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs Stockdale) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-9	C Llewellyn	[illegible]
3	822260	RUNAWAY PETE 15 (F,G) (J Saunders) M Pipe 7-11-8	R Dunwoody	97
4	50/1111	TRIBUNE 19 (D,F,G,S) (Hexagon Racing) C Thornton 6-10-10	M Foster	96
5	241503	SPACEAGE GOLD 19 (F) (G Dabrel) J Old 8-10-7	G Upton	98
6	365441	SMUGGLER'S POINT 8 (F,G) (Mrs V Hoare) J Bridger 7-10-4 (4ex)	Sophie Mitchell (3)	95
7	8PP430	MISTER BLAKE 15 (D,F,G) (W Edwards) R Lee 7-10-0	X Aizpuru (7)	84

Long handicap: Mister Blake 9-2.

BETTING: 2-1 Tamarpour, 9-4 Halle Derring, 4-1 Tribune, 8-1 Smuggler's Point, 10-1 Spaceage Gold, 12-1 Runaway Pete, 20-1 Mister Blake.

1996: NEWTON POINT 7-10-9 R Johnson (7-2) D Nicholson 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

TAMARPOUR 2¼l 5th of 28 to Big Strand in Coral Cup at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). HALE DERRING 8l 4th of 24 to Pharanear in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 2f, good) with MISTER BLAKE (17lb better off) 34l 11th and RUNAWAY PETE (3lb better off) 78l 19th. TRIBUNE beat Leading Prospect 6l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Ayr (3m 110yd, soft). SPACEAGE GOLD 7½l 3rd of 16 to Menesonic in novice hurdle at Exeter (3m 2f, good to soft). SMUGGLER'S POINT beat Vintage Claret 5l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm).
Selection: TAMARPOUR

4.45 MAHONIA HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £2,762: 2m 3f 110yd) (9 runners)

1	51144-0	FAMILIAR FRIEND 7 (B,D,F,S) (M Long) S Gilmore 11-12-8	L Lay (7)	[illegible]
2	U2P1	STAR OATS 7 (F,G,S) (H Phillips) Mrs R Lampard 11-12-8	A Kinane (7)	85
3	3/P1-	TOM FURZE 314 (F) (Mrs D Bockett) Mrs D Bockett 10-12-4	M Batters (7)	92
4	22U05-1	A WINDY CITIZEN 22 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Thomson) Mrs C Hicks 8-12-3	A Sansome (5)	98
5	4646-4F	FLOWING RIVER 28 (F,B) (P Butler) N Mitchell 11-12-0	N R Mitchell (7)	84
6	PSP/P-P3	GAMBLING ROYAL 25 (G,S) (Mrs T Pritchard) P Pritchard 14-12-0	P Pritchard (7)	91
7	25/46-43	POORS WOOD 33 (G,S) (F Jackson) S Brown 10-12-0	T McCarthy (5)	97
8	PP-U4	TELLAPORKY 12 (T Hind) T Hind 8-12-0	A Middleton (7)	93
9	11-1U	QUIET CONFIDENCE 23 (BF,F,G) (Mrs S Kerley) K Kerley 7-11-9	Miss D Stafford (7)	–

BETTING: 5-2 A Windy Citizen, 3-1 Quiet Confidence, 7-2 Star Oats, 5-1 Tom Furze, 10-1 Gambling Royal, 16-1 Flowing River, Poors Wood, 20-1 others.

1996: MR GOLIGHTLY 9-12-1 Mrs J Reed (5-2) Mrs S Cobden 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

STAR OATS beat Hickleton Lad 4l in 4-runner hunter chase at Towcester (2m 5f, good to firm). TOM FURZE beat Bacchus Dasher 7l in 9-runner hunter chase at Folkestone (2m 5f, good to firm). A WINDY CITIZEN beat Northfield 2l in 13-runner Leicester hunter chase (3m 1f, good). FLOWING RIVER 35½l 4th of 12 to Slievenamon Mist in Newbury hunter chase (2m 4f, good) last completed outing. GAMBLING ROYAL 22l 3rd of 11 in hunter chase at Windsor (3m, good to firm) with QUIET CONFIDENCE 10l clear when unseated rider at 13th. POORS WOOD 27l 3rd of 6 to The Jogger in Kempton hunter chase (3m, good). TELLAPORKY 13½l 4th of 10 to What Chance in Fakenham hunter chase (2m 5f 110yd, good). QUIET CONFIDENCE beat The Lorryman 25l in point-to-point (3m, good) last completed outing.
Selection: QUIET CONFIDENCE

5.15 FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,956: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

1	0	BULKO BOY 57 (Nobodys Partnership) P Hobbs 5-11-8	D J Kavanagh	–
2		DRAGON KING (Dragon Industrial Services) C Benwell 5-11-8	P Henley (3)	–
3		GATFLAX (G Clarke) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-8	M Keighley (7)	–
4	0	KAPCO 18 (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 5-11-8	G Brace (7)	–
5	60	MOONRAKER'S MIRAGE 18 (W Perry) D Elsworth 6-11-8	M Batchelor (7)	–
6	20-	MR BOJANGLES 347 (Mrs D Lavender) I Williams 5-11-8	Mr R Thornton (5)	–
7	0	NICANJON 114 (J Allen) R Dickin 6-11-8	X Aizpuru (7)	–
8	324	ROYAL POT BLACK 42 (A Lunt) P Hobbs 6-11-8	M Moran (7)	–
9	1	SPIRIT OF STEEL 29 (D,S) (B Stewart-Brown) T Tate 4-11-7	R McCarthy (7)	–
10		COLD FEET (C Mitchell) C Mitchell 6-11-3	J Power (7)	–
11	5	BLAZING BATMAN 15 (W Henderson) Mrs R Henderson 4-11-0	Mr W Henderson	–
12		BORN AT KINGS (Kings Bloodstock Ltd) J White 4-11-0	Michael Brennan (3)	–
13	4	RACKETBALL 34 (Mrs S Tainton) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-0	L Suthern (7)	–
14		SEYMOUR WHO (Mrs S Supple) K Supple 4-11-0	G Supple (5)	–

BETTING: 3-1 Spirit Of Steel, 4-1 Racketball, 5-1 Gatflax, 7-1 Royal Pot Black, 8-1 Kapco, 10-1 others.

1996: WADE ROAD 5-11-1 J Culloty (6-1) Miss H Knight 24 ran

FORM FOCUS

BULKO BOY 24l 10th of 18 to Big Perks in Warwick NH flat race (2m, good to firm). KAPCO 21l 9th of 20 to Billy Box in Sandown NH flat race (2m 110yd, good) with MOONRAKER'S MIRAGE 30l 12th. MR BOJANGLES 63l 7th of 12 to The Land Agent in Newton Abbot NH flat race (2m 1f, soft). ROYAL POT BLACK 29¾l 4th of 14 to Rasak in Lingfield NH flat race (2m, heavy). SPIRIT OF STEEL beat First Light 4l in 12-runner Catterick NH flat race (2m, good to soft). RACKETBALL 14l 4th of 17 to Noisy Miner in Wincanton NH flat race (2m, good) with MOONRAKER'S MIRAGE (2lb better off) 25½l 6th.
Selection: SPIRIT OF STEEL

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Miss H Knight	5	18	27.8	J Culloty	4	7	57.1
D Nicholson	17	67	25.4	C Maude	7	25	28.0
M Pipe	15	72	20.8	J Osborne	28	114	24.6
N Twiston-Davies	19	97	19.6	R Johnson	4	19	21.1
D Elsworth	8	50	16.0	C Llewellyn	12	63	19.0

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

2.10 Lisa's Pride. 2.40 Malibu Man. 3.15 John Emms. 3.45 Sharp Temper. 4.20 Captain's Day. 4.55 Victory Team. 5.25 Classic Mystery.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
3.15 JOHN EMMS (nap). 4.20 Captain's Day.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW BEST

2.10 HEADCORN MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O fillies: £2,277: 5f) (11 runners)

101	6	CAROL GRIMES 4 J Moore 8-7	P P Murphy (5) 3
102		CASA ROSA R Hannon 8-7	Dane O'Neill 11
103		LISA'S PRIDE Miss G Kelleway 8-7	W J O'Connor 7
104		MISS SKYE T Naughton 8-7	Paul Eddery 4
105		LADY MOLL R Boss 8-6	L Dettori 10
106		SHANNON C Dwyer 8-6	J Stack 1
107		SOLWAY LASS P Eccles 8-6	C Rutter 2
108		CONECTIS D Cosgrove 8-5	J Quinn 5
109		BLISS Mrs P Dutfield 8-4	T Sprake 9
110		SWANMORE LADY S Williams 8-4	D R McCabe 6
111		JACK-N-JILLY J Moore 8-3	M Henry (3) 8

9-4 Casa Rosa, 7-2 Lisa's Pride, 6-1 Lady Moll, 7-1 Carol Grimes, 8-1 Miss Skye, 10-1 Shannon, Conectis, 12-1 others.

2.40 ROCHESTER HANDICAP (£3,122: 5f) (12)

201	-550	DANDE FLYER 35 (CD,F,G) D Arbuthnot 4-10-0	S Whitworth 7
202	100-	MALIBU MAN 168 (D,F,G) E Wheeler 5-9-8	T Sprake 6
203	406-	BARRANAK 184 (D,G) G McCourt 5-9-5	R Studholme (7) 2
204	0-00	MILETRIAN REFURB 30 (D,G,S) M Channon 4-9-4	T Quinn 10
205	050-	PENLOP 188 B Meehan 3-9-2	M Tebbutt 5
206	000-	MERANTI 184 J Bradley 4-8-7	D Holland 8
207	630-	KEEN WATERS 159 J Arnold 3-8-6	S Sanders 12
208	-040	SUITE FACTORS 48 (D,F) K Burke 3-8-6	K Fallon 9
209	505-	COLLEGE NIGHT 177 C Dwyer 5-8-1	N Varley 1
210	6433	SUPERLAO 34 (D,F,G) J Bridger 5-7-10	R Mullen (5) 3
211	00/	ARNIE 498 J Poulton 5-7-10	Martin Dwyer (3) 4
212	000-	MISTER SEAN 153 J Bradley 4-7-10	N Carlisle 11

5-1 Malibu Man, 6-1 Keen Waters, College Night, Suite Factors, 7-1 Dande Flyer, Superlao, 8-1 Barranak, 10-1 others.

3.15 SHORNECLIFFE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,277: 6f) (11)

301	20-	BATSMAN 201 W Musson 9-0	M Baird (5) 10
302	50-	JOHN EMMS 202 M Bell 9-0	Pat Eddery 2
303	000-	LITTLESTONE ROCKET 173 W Muir 9-0	J Reid 6
304	0-	MUARA BAY 135 G Lewis 9-0	A Whelan (3) 9
305		PRINCE ZANDO C Horgan 9-0	Paul Eddery 8
306	00-	JUKEBOX JIVE 203 C Dwyer 8-9	Jo Hunnam (7) 11
307	060-	JUNIE 159 T Mills 8-9	S Sanders 5
308	426-	LAMARITA 264 J Eustace 8-9	R Cochrane 4
309		MOON SONG A Jarvis 8-9	W J O'Connor 1
310	60-	NAMPARA BAY 301 G Bravery 8-9	M Rimmer 3
311	084-	WEE DRAM 177 R Hannon 8-9	Dane O'Neill 7

11-4 John Emms, 7-2 Lamarita, 4-1 Wee Dram, 8-1 Muara Bay, 10-1 Batsman, Moon Song, Junie, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S C Williams, 7 winners from 20 runners, 35.0%; C Horgan, 6 from 20, 30.0%; D Arbuthnot, 6 from 22, 27.3%; Lady Herries, 5 from 19, 26.3%; J Payne, 5 from 20, 25.0%; B Millman, 6 from 28, 21.4%.

JOCKEYS: M Hills, 6 winners from 22 rides, 27.3%; Pat Eddery, 8 from 30, 26.7%; M Rimmer, 7 from 29, 24.1%; Paul Eddery, 16 from 83, 19.3%; J Stack, 3 from 16, 18.8%; Dane O'Neill, 11 from 59, 18.6%.

3.45 ALDINGTON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,277: 6f 189yd) (14)

401	5-	EASTERN EAGLE 156 J Eustace 9-0	R Cochrane 1
402	00-	HIPPIOS 149 S Dow 9-0	T Quinn 12
403		MASTERPIECE R Hannon 9-0	Pat Eddery 7
404	064-	NERVOUS REX 167 W Muir 9-0	J Reid 13
405	00-	REGAL REPRIMAND 155 G Lewis 9-0	Paul Eddery 5
406	2	SHARPO WASSL 35 (BF) W Haggas 9-0	M Hills 14
407		SHARP TEMPER B Hills 9-0	J D Smith (3) 10
408	6	WHO'S THAT MAN 35 S Williams 9-0	K Fallon 4
409	6-6	ARBOREAL 6 Mrs L Stubbs 8-9	S Sanders 8
410	60-	BATHE IN LIGHT 189 Lord Huntingdon 8-9	D Harrison 3
411	43-	HAJAT 158 N Graham 8-9	D Holland 9
412		KIERANS MAIDEN A Jarvis 8-9	W J O'Connor 11
413	665	NATIVE THATCH 41 W Turner 8-9	T Sprake 6
414	0-32	SHE'S DAWAN 41 P Mitchell 8-9	L Dettori 2

9-4 Sharp Temper, 5-1 Hajat, 6-1 Masterpiece, 7-1 Nervous Rex, 8-1 Sharpo Wassl, Bathe In Light, 12-1 Eastern Eagle, 14-1 others.

4.20 ALKHAM HANDICAP
(£3,226: 1m 1f 149yd) (15)

501	0-43	MIMOSA 22 (F) S Dow 4-9-11	A Daly (5) 2
502	4030	FATHER DAN 6 (D,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-4	D Holland 13
503	020-	EUROBOX BOY 130J (F) A Jarvis 4-9-4	W J O'Connor 12
504	040-	KRISTAL BREEZE 145 (D,F,G,S) W Muir 5-9-4	J Reid 10
505	040-	SCOTTISH HERO 95J Lady Herries 4-9-3	P Doe (7) 3
506	000-	COUNTRY THATCH 189 C Horgan 4-9-3	Paul Eddery 11
507	6112	BAGSHOT 27 (D,F,G,S) G L Moore 6-9-1	S Whitworth 5
508	10-0	KEDWICK 20J (B,D,G) P Hedger 8-8-1	T Quinn 4
509	-444	ARZANI 55 (D,G) D Cosgrove 6-8-13	M Rimmer 15
510	3611	CAPTAIN'S DAY 22 (D,F,G) H Collingridge 5-8-12	R Mullen (5) 1
511	1300	SOUTH EASTERN FRED 13 (D,F,G) H Collingridge 6-8-11	J Quinn 7
512	000-	PROUD BRIGADIER 149 (F,G,S) M Bosley 9-8-7	C Rutter 9
513	050-	CHALLENGER 261 J Sheehan 4-8-6	A Clark 8
514	50-0	TONIAL 8J (F) R Ingram 5-8-4	A McGlone 6
515	0-00	ONE IN THE EYE 63J J Poulton 4-8-3	Martin Dwyer (3) 14

5-1 Captain's Day, 6-1 Bagshot, 7-1 Eurobox Boy, Scottish Hero, 8-1 Kristal Breeze, Mimosa, 10-1 South Eastern Fred, 12-1 others.

4.55 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP
(£3,304: 6f 189yd) (16)

601	205-	VICTORY TEAM 216 (G) G Balding 5-10-0	T Quinn 3
602	4112	GREATEST 13 (B,D,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-12	D Holland 1
603	1562	ROYAL CARLTON 22 (D,BF,G) G L Moore 5-9-11	S Whitworth 2
604	-650	SHARP 'N SMART 46 (C,D,F,G) B Smart 5-9-10	A Daly (5) 13
605	330-	UTMOST ZEAL 120 (CD,F) P Harris 4-9-10	A McGlone 10
606	6-26	OBERONS BOY 87 (D,BF,G) S Dow 4-9-8	W Ryan 7
607	-643	PERILOUS PLIGHT 22 (D,F,G) Mrs L Stubbs 6-9-8	J Reid 15
608	006-	GENEROUS PRESENT 156 (F) J Payne 4-9-1	R Cochrane 6
609	005-	SCATHEBURY 82J (D,F,G) K Burke 4-9-1	K Fallon 11
610	0006	SOUND THE TRUMPET 32 (G) R Spicer 5-8-13	T Sprake 5
611	060-	AMEER ALFAYAAFI 156 B Meehan 4-8-10	M Tebbutt 8
612	360-	IRISH FICTION 131 (D,F) D Cosgrove 3-8-9	M Rimmer 12
613	240-	AYBEEGIRL 160 (F) Mrs J Cecil 3-8-8	Martin Dwyer (3) 9
614	030-	SIS GARDEN 88 (B,D,G) J Cullinan 4-8-5	J Quinn 14
615	2485	OUR KEVIN 25 (B,D,G) B Pearce 3-8-4	D R McCabe 16
616	200-	FLYING HAROLD 188 M Channon 4-8-2	P P Murphy (5) 4

4-1 Greatest, 5-1 Royal Carlton, 8-1 Oberons Boy, Utmost Zeal, 10-1 Victory Team, Aybeegirl, 12-1 others

5.25 KINGSNORTH HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,940: 1m 4f) (6)

1	600-	TASIK CHINI 212 P Cole 9-7	T Quinn 6
2	400-	CLASSIC MYSTERY 221 B Meehan 9-7	M Tebbutt 5
3	560-	HERBSHAN DANCER 212 B Millman 8-7	T Sprake 4
4	000-	WARRIOR KING 160 Mrs P Dutfield 8-6	D Holland 2
5	4243	LEG BEFORUM 25 L Montague Hall 8-6	Dane O'Neill 1
6	000-	OLIVER 132 R Armstrong 8-1	J Quinn 3

2-1 Leg Beforum, 5-2 Tasik Chini, 3-1 Classic Mystery, 5-1 Oliver, 16-1 Herbshan Dancer, 20-1 Warrior King

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Newcastle

Going: good

2.35 (5f) 1, MIQUELON (K Darley, 5-2 fav); 2, Flower O'Cannie (L Dettori, 11-4); 3, Theatre Of Dreams (J Fortune, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Last Knight (4th), 12 Anka Lady (6th), 25 Mill End Quest (5th). 6 ran. NR: Vet's Decent. Nk, 1l, 3½l, 1¾l, 1½l. R Hollinshead at Upper Longdon. Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £2.20. DF: £4.30. CSF: £9.02.

3.10 (1m 2f 32yd) 1, DOMINO FLYER (J Supple, 14-1); 2, Sing And Dance (J Quinn, 14-1); 3, Pendolino (G Bardwell, 14-1); 4, Suga Hawk (K Fallon, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav Chadleigh Lane, 10 Action Jackson, Newbridge Boy, Rousai, 12 Flag Fen, Shergy, 14 Giltbox, 16 Picard, Tanlyar, 20 Spanish Verdict, 25 Fatehalkhair, Nobby Barnes, Whitley Grange Boy (6th), 33 Shamokin (5th). 18 ran. ½l, 3½l, ¾l, 1¾l, nk. Mrs A Swinbank at Richmond. Tote: £29.10; £7.20, £3.60, £3.20, £2.90. DF: £284.90. Trio: not won (pool of £2,181.47 carried forward to 4.55 at Folkestone today). CSF: £175.82. Tricast: £2,572.52.

3.40 (6f) 1, WITHOUT FRIENDS (S Whitworth, 7-4 fav); 2, Skyers Flyer (J Bramhill, 7-2); 3, Prominent (J Fortune, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Ejeer (6th), 11-2 Chilling, 10 Move The Clouds (4th), 16 Interaction, 20 Bellerule, 33 Crosby Nod (5th). 9 ran. Sh hd, 1¾l, sh hd, 1¾l, ¾l. W Storey at Consett. Tote: £2.30; £1.20, £1.40, £1.70. DF: £4.70. Trio: £17.30. CSF: £9.20.

4.15 (1m) 1, MAFTOOL (L Dettori, 2-5 fav; Richard Evans's nap and Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Terdad (D Harrison, 5-1); 3, Indigo Dawn (D McKeown, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 9 Noirne (4th), 12 Golden Thunderbolt (5th), 100 Born On The Wild, Persian Sunset (6th). 7 ran. ¾l, 2l, 2½l, 3½l, 5l. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £1.30; £1.20, £1.70. DF: £2.60. CSF: £2.99.

4.50 (5f) 1, AMRON (N Carlisle, 10-1); 2, Kalar (A Culhane, 7-1); 3, Surprise Mission (J Fortune, 3-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 7 Able Sheriff, 9 Blessingindisguise, 10 Captain Carat (4th), Sweet Magic, 12 Cross The Border, Express Girl, 14 Stephensons Rocket (6th), 16 Insider Trader, Present 'N Correct (5th), 20 Grand Chapeau, Magic Lake. 14 ran. 3½l, sh hd, 1¾l, ¾l, 1l. J Berry at Cockerham. Tote: £10.60; £3.20, £2.50, £2.10. DF: £18.70. Trio: £85.40. CSF: £77.52. Tricast: £251.23.

5.20 (2m 19yd) 1, KINOKO (J Bramhill, 33-1); 2, Le Brief (G Bardwell, 7-1); 3, All On (N Kennedy, 6-1); 4, Road Racer (J Fortune, 5-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Shakiyr, 11 Lostris, Turgenev, 12 Opaque, Royal Citizen, 20 Captain Marmalade, Elite Bliss (6th), Hard Love, Romalito (5th), 25 Double Dash, Top Prize, 50 Ship's Dancer. 16 ran. 3½l, ¾l, ½l, 3½l, 6l. K Hogg on Isle Of Man. Tote: £56.30; £8.80, £2.10, £1.70, £1.30. DF: £170.50. Trio: £494.40 (part won. Pool of £564.11 carried forward to 4.55 at Folkestone today). CSF: £226.93. Tricast: £1,485.53.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £8,359.71 carried forward to Folkestone today).

Placepot: £47.00. Quadpot: £4.40.

Sandown Park

Going: good to firm

2.15 (2m ch) 1, JUST BRUCE (D Gallagher, 20-1); 2, Mister Drum (W Marston, 13-8); 3, Flying Instructor (R Bellamy, 4-7 fav). 3 ran. 1½l, 1l. Mrs E Heath. Tote: £9.00. DF: £3.60. CSF: £41.28.

2.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, PONTOON BRIDGE (R Dunwoody, 4-9 fav); 2, Chiappucci (D Gallagher, 6-1). Only two finished. ALSO RAN: 7-2 Ivey Player (f), 40 Eli Gee (f). 4 ran. NR: Stately Home. 3l. Mrs A Perrett at Pulborough. Tote: £1.40. DF: £2.10. CSF: £3.28.

3.20 (3m 110yd ch) 1, LUCKY DOLLAR (Major S Robinson, 2-1); 2, No Joker (Capt R Hall, 25-1); 3, Sonofagipsy (Mr A Wood, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 6-5 fav Brackenfield (f), 8 Archies Oats (5th), 16 Magnum Express (4th), New Ghost (f), 66 Ennistymon (6th), Icantelya (f), Major Mac (pu), Taurean Tycoon (ur), Todding Inn (pu). 12 ran. 2l, nk, 17l, 3l, 15l. K Bailey at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £5.60, £3.50. DF: £29.50. Trio: £202.70. CSF: £49.28.

3.55 (3m 110yd ch) 1, DENVER BAY (L Aspell, 7-4 jt-fav); 2, Credon (R Dunwoody, 2-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 jt-fav Harristown Lady (ur). 3 ran. 19l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £2.40. DF: £2.10. CSF: £4.66.

4.30 (2m ch) 1, RED BEAN (R Johnson, 5-2); 2, The Carrot Man (P Hide, 10-11 fav); 3, Count Barachois (D Gallagher, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Norse Raider (4th), 66 Young Alfie (5th). 5 ran. 1¾l, 24l, 7l, 21l. K Vincent at Reigate. Tote: £3.10; £1.30, £1.20. DF: £2.10. CSF: £4.81.

5.00 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, ELECTRIC COMMITTEE (Mr A Wood, 9-1); 2, Great Pokey (Miss N Courtenay, 20-1); 3, Driving Force (Mr A Charles-Jones, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav True Steel (4th), 11-4 Getzig (pu), 9 The Mill Height (pu). 6 ran. 3l, 16l, 9l. A Wood at Sandhurst. Tote: £11.70; £4.90, £2.90. DF: £45.10. CSF: £103.07.

Placepot: £4,818.20. Quadpot: £92.10.

Southwell

Going: good

2.25 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Father Sky (J Osborne, 4-5 fav); 2, Zambezi Spirit (5-2). Only two finished. 3 ran. Dist. O Sherwood. Tote: £1.30. DF: £2.30. CSF: £2.77.

3.00 (2m ch) 1, Chorus Line (R Supple, 3-1); 2, Tenayestelign (7-1); 3, Sanlaray (6-1). Gimme 2-1 fav (ur). 9 ran. 25l, ¾l. P Beaumont. Tote: £3.90; £1.10, £2.30, £3.10. DF: £8.00. Trio: £20.20. CSF: £22.39.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Counterbalance (S McNeill, 11-2); 2, Curragh Peter (25-1); 3, Bit Of A Touch (4-1). Blazer Moniere 7-2 fav. 8 ran. 26l, 11l. J McConnochie. Tote: £6.70; £1.60, £7.80, £1.20. DF: £71.00. CSF: £96.44. Tricast: £556.76.

4.05 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Peace Lord (J F Titley, 4-9 fav); 2, Sioux To Speak (11-2); 3, Punzal (9-1). 8 ran. 7l, 2l. Mrs D Haine. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £1.40, £2.70. DF: £2.30. CSF: £3.12.

4.40 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Persian Elite (J Osborne, 9-4); 2, Ryder Cup (9-4); 3, Jet Boys (13-8 fav). 4 ran. 12l, 14l. C Egerton. Tote: £2.70. DF: £2.60. CSF: £7.01.

5.10 (2m hdle) 1, Mayday Lauren (S Wynne, 9-4); 2, Mry Leader (13-8 fav); 3, Ballymacool (13-2). 8 ran. 3l, 21l. A Bailey. Tote: £3.70; £1.10, £1.40, £3.30. DF: £3.60. CSF: £6.70.

Placepot: £27.80. Quadpot: £10.30.

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Time to cry foul on an irregular practice

SIMON BARNES

Midweek View

I don't think I will bother to write this column today. Not in the mood, bit weary after all that skating in Switzerland, don't want to let myself down with a piece that's not up to standard.

But, as you see, I am writing it anyway. Partly this is the ever-present desire to pay the mortgage. But the important fact here is not that writing is what I do: a writer is what I *am*. So here I am, writing.

The late Geoffrey Green, former football correspondent of this parish, had an aphorism for the guidance of all journalists. "If you can't write a good piece," he would say, "write a bad one."

He did not mean that second-rate pieces were acceptable. He meant that a writer's minimum obligation is to write. You *always* write, you always get it there in time and you always provide enough copy. The variable in the equation is quality.

Now, let us zip-pan to the Tewin Irregulars in their palmiest of days. And the nightmare of Saturday nights, when every telephone call brings a fresh disaster. The Fish can't play, he'd forgotten he'd promised to go to the seaside. Steady Eddy is through to the golf final and he's very sorry. Well, do you know if Giles is free? Or Jason?

And so the ring-round begins. Never mind, Jason, just thought I'd ask, send Emma my love. Hello Dan! Yes, it *has* been a long time hasn't it. How's Jane? Oh dear. I am sorry to hear that. But since you're a bachelor again, you may fancy a game of cricket tomorrow . . .

By nine in the evening, shame is long gone. Well, not all shame. There is one phone call I don't make. Nicky, I'm awfully sorry but we're crying off, we simply can't get a team out. Never! I might ring Nicky to ask if he has a few players he could lend me. I might ask if we can agree the toss now and bat first, hoping the rump of the side will arrive before 4pm. But the one thing you do not do is cancel.

I have played against and alongside all kinds of last-second picks: a coach driver (who received an inadvertent first-ball beamer); Rachael Heyhoe Flint's double (who received a not totally inadvertent snorter into the groin first ball); various groundsmen, passers-by, drinkers, small boys. The results were sometimes humiliating. But we always played. What, weasel out of the fixture? That would not be cricket.

Now what I am writing about, of course, is Middlesbrough Football Club. Middlesbrough really did say, I'm not writing my column today, I'm not in the mood. They actually did phone Nicky and tell him that the entire game was off.

Or to be pedantic, on December 21 they failed to produce a team to play Blackburn Rovers, claiming that they had 23 of their 40 players unavailable because of injury and illness. For this, they were docked three points by the FA Premier League and fined £50,000. As a point of interest, Middlesbrough next played on Boxing Day, and, refreshed after their rest, defeated a weary Everton for their first win in 13 league matches.

Today Middlesbrough make their appeal against this loss of three points, every one of which they need as they struggle against relegation. They have spent a good deal of money hiring the most costly legal help in order to show that they are more to be pitied than blamed.

The counter-argument will be that Middlesbrough have obligations, as a professional football club, and must fulfil them. But minimal professional standards, on the Geoffrey Green Principle, are only half the story.

Agreeing to play sport *at all* is an obligation. Obviously a professional outfit has obligations to paying supporters, but any sporting organisation has obligations to its opponents: that day and throughout the duration of any competition it has agreed to enter.

Missing a fixture is not like closing the shop because of staff sickness. It is more like a gambling debt. If you bet with a friend and lose, you will be quicker to pay him than you are the milkman. The milkman's debt is a matter of obligation, the gambling loss is a debt of honour.

And Middlesbrough welshed on the footballer's debt of honour. They not only did something that the most despised journalist in the press box of the Riverside Stadium would not do, they did something that even the Tewin Irregulars would find unacceptable. And that is stooping pretty low.

Now I have nothing against Middlesbrough. The bravery of their strategy — bringing in the best players in the world, paying them a mint and seeing if they could inspire the journeymen around them — is worth cheering, even if the flaws have been obvious.

But it is a law of sport at every level: you honour your fixtures. Middlesbrough would have had the admiration and sympathy of the world if they had lined up against Blackburn with the groundsman, the snottiest apprentice, two little lads and the tea lady.

But they refused to play and it will be an absurdity if the points are restored. If I were running the appeal, I would dock them an extra three points on top for wasting the nation's time. Oh, and if Middlesbrough fancy a Sunday afternoon cricket match next season, don't ring the Tewin Irregulars. We have our standards, perhaps not of sporting excellence, but certainly of what constitutes sporting behaviour.

Football's integrity bolstered by sporting gesture at Highbury

Fowler praised from highest level

By Rob Hughes

A MOMENT of Corinthian spirit on the moneyed sportsfields of Great Britain is like a pearl on a beach of stones. Every one should be examined and cherished.

On Monday night and yesterday, Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool forward, was lauded far and wide for his apparent attempt to dissuade Gerald Ashby, the referee, from granting him a penalty in the heat of the FA Carling Premiership match against Arsenal at Highbury.

TOP FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	31	18	9	4	61	33	63
Liverpool	31	17	9	5	53	26	60
Arsenal	32	16	9	7	52	28	57
Newcastle	30	15	7	8	59	36	52

MANCHESTER UNITED: Apr 5: v Derby (h) Apr 12: v Blackburn (a) Apr 19: v Liverpool (a) May 3: v Leicester (a) May 6: v Middlesbrough (h) May 11: v West Ham (h) To be arranged: v Newcastle (h)
LIVERPOOL: Apr 6: v Coventry (h) Apr 13: v Sunderland (a). Apr 16: v Everton (a) Apr 19: v Manchester United (h) May 3: v Tottenham (h) May 6: v Wimbledon (a). May 11: v Sheffield Wednesday (a)
ARSENAL: Apr 5: v Chelsea (a). Apr 12: v Leicester (h) Apr 19: v Blackburn (h) Apr 21: v Coventry (a) May 3: v Newcastle (h) May 11: v Derby (a)
NEWCASTLE UNITED: Apr 5: v Sunderland (h) Apr 13: v Sheffield Wednesday (a) Apr 16: v Chelsea (h) Apr 19: v Derby (h) May 3: v Arsenal (a) May 6: v West Ham (a) May 11: v Nottingham Forest (h) To be arranged: v Manchester United (a)

MARC ASPLAND

Ashby points to the spot unmoved by the protests of Fowler, right, and Seaman against his decision to award Liverpool a penalty at Highbury

"Your reaction in the penalty incident, in which you visibly tried to persuade the referee from awarding a penalty in your favour, did you great honour." Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, the world governing body of football, wrote in an open letter from Zurich to Fowler, faxed to the *Liverpool Echo* yesterday. "At a time when there is a disturbing trend towards cheating, your example in such an important match helps to maintain the integrity of the game."

In addition, Fowler, who had gone to ground at the England training camp at Bisham Abbey, was praised by Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, who said: "I know Robbie has a reputation for being a scallywag, but nobody can fault him here. He showed his concern that David Seaman, a fellow professional, might be sent off. The pitch is always the best stage for players to show what they are made of."

Ashby remained silent after issuing the simple statement: "I didn't hear what Fowler said."

Clearly, courtesy of the television camera lens, Fowler was pleading with the referee for something. Seaman recalled that Fowler, as he got to his feet, was insisting that the goalkeeper had not touched him. Others, including Lee Dixon, the Arsenal defender, suggested that Fowler had mouthed "no penalty!". Others interpreted his instinctive first reaction as trying to ensure that, because there was no detectable contact, he himself would not receive a yellow card for alleged "diving".

Given the rarity of the matter, given that the actions of sporting idols of Fowler's age — 22 — can influence the behaviour of youngsters, perhaps it behoves everybody to think the purest thoughts and to congratulate him.

Indeed, Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, did so at once. "It was a big fair play from Fowler," he said. "I have never seen a player do that, though I have many times seen the opposite. I compare it to Bjorn Borg, when he was 17 and about to win the French Open for the first time . . . and on match point he said 'no, the ball was in'."

As rare, as welcoming, as valuable as the gesture was, Seaman brought smiles among the media afterwards. Asked what more Fowler could have done, he responded: "He could have kicked the penalty wide."

In the event, Fowler's somewhat tame and telegraphed kick was saved by Seaman, but Jason McAteer, predatory in the extreme and not afflicted by implication in the build-up, stroked the rebounding ball into the net for a goal that could be influential in the championship.

So, in little more than a month, the course of the FA Cup and the Premiership could have turned on penalties that Sky Television technology shows ought never to have been given.

The winning goal for Chelsea in the FA Cup fifth-round tie against Leicester City at Stamford Bridge came from a penalty that looked obviously unfair. Liverpool's winner at Highbury came after a penalty when the action deceived the naked eye.

With 20 or more cameras at a match, BSkyB can and does dissect every decision attempted by the arbiter, but that must not be allowed to persuade the authorities in sport to weaken a referee's rule, or to interrupt the rhythm of a game by acquiescing to the siren call for television replays to be used as on-the-spot judgments.

There are cheats who would soon find ways to use such interruptions to destroy the trust on which football depends.

☐ Wenger's memory is nice, but not perfect. It was Mats Wilander, a fellow Swede of Borg, who in 1982 won the French Open tennis title when he was 17. In his semi-final against Jose-Luis Clerc, standing at match point, Jean Gignot and Jacques Dorfmann, the linesman and umpire, ruled out a forehand from Clerc. "That's not the way I want to win the point," Wilander insisted. "The ball was good, replay the point."

Bristol City rule out big-name appointment

By Russell Kempson

BRISTOL CITY have set their sights realistically low as they search for a manager to replace Joe Jordan, who left the club by mutual consent on Monday night. It is unlikely that Kevin Keegan or Ray Wilkins, both available for a return to management, will be considered by the Nationwide League second division club.

Instead, City are focusing their efforts on the lower reaches of the League structure. "We can't afford one of the big names," Scott Davidson, the City chairman, said yesterday. "I've heard Ray Wilkins has already been mentioned but we're not looking for a player-manager, either.

"We need someone who has been successful in the lower divisions. We want him to concentrate on coaching while the board of directors will look after transfers and the financial side of things."

Jordan, 45, had been in charge for 28 months — his second stint at Ashton Gate — but, after six defeats in eight matches, City had slipped away from the play-off zone. Davidson felt that it was time for change.

"If the new man could get us promotion, that would be a bonus," he said. "What we're really looking towards is next season."

City have already received a number of inquiries about the vacancy. When Davidson returns tomorrow from a business trip to Dublin, the applications will be sifted through. "It would be nice to make an appointment before the weekend but it will more probably be next week," he said.

John Ward, the former assistant manager at Aston Villa, would be a popular choice, even though he managed Bristol Rovers — City's bitter rivals — for three seasons until he was dismissed in May last year. "I'll sit down and think about it in due course," Ward said yesterday. "Everybody knows I want to get back into management."

Gerry Sweeney, Jordan's assistant, took charge for the second division match away to Crewe Alexandra last night but is unlikely to be offered the job permanently. More suitable candidates include Mel Machin, of Bournemouth, David Webb, the unsettled Brentford manager, Sammy McIlroy, of Macclesfield Town, and John Rudge, the Port Vale manager.

City's decisive board meeting lasted most of Monday, with Jordan eventually called in during the evening to hear his fate.

Whoever succeeds him will inherit the problem of 16 players whose contracts need renewing during the summer. The club also has a suspended two-point deduction hanging over it, until the end of the year, after the City-Rovers derby at Ashton Gate in December was marred by crowd disturbances.

David Elleray, of England, will be referee for the first leg of the Uefa Cup semi-final between Tenerifé and Schalke 04 on April 8. His appointment was confirmed yesterday by Uefa, the European governing body, which also revealed that Nikolai Levnikov, of Russia, will take charge of the away leg of Manchester United's European Cup semi-final against Borussia Dortmund on April 9. Urs Meier, of Switzerland, will handle the second leg at Old Trafford two weeks later.

Hellmut Krug, of Germany, has been appointed referee for the first leg of Liverpool's Cup Winners' Cup semi-final away to Paris Saint-Germain on April 10. Rune Pedersen, of Norway, will be responsible for the Anfield return on April 24.

Nigel Quashie, the Queens Park Rangers midfield player, has signed a five-year contract. Quashie has recently returned to reserve team action, having being out for almost a year after a bout of glandular fever.

Karl Ready, the Wales international defender, has also committed himself to QPR for a further four years.

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: *Alfreton v Gainsborough. League Cup:* Semi-final, first leg: Boston v Colwyn Bay.
ICIS LEAGUE: *Premier division:* Harrow v Dagenham and Redbridge (7.45).
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Solihull Boro v Raunds Town; VS Rugby v R C Warwick. Southern division: Bashley v Witney; Havant v Weymouth; Newport (IoW) v *St Leonards.*
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City v West Ham (at Clevedon); Bristol Rovers v Brighton (at Yate Town); Charlton v Norwich (2.0); Crystal Palace v Bournemouth (at Plough Lane, 2.0); Ipswich v Wimbledon (7.15); Portsmouth v Queens Park Rangers (7.0); *Swansea v Arsenal (2.0).*
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham v Leeds (at Hednesford Town FC, 7.15). First division: Huddersfield v Coventry *(7.0); Middlesbrough v Blackpool* (7.0), Port Vale v Preston (7.0); Sheffield Utd v Notts County (at Don Valley Stadium, 7.0); West Bromwich v Aston Villa (at Halesowen *Town FC, 7.0). Second division: Mansfield* v Wrexham (7.0); Rotherham v Shrewsbury (7.0). Third division: Bury v Chester (7.0); Doncaster v Darlington (7.0); Rochdale v Scunthorpe *(7.0); Walsall v Lincoln (7.0);* Wigan v Chesterfield (7.0). League Cup: Quarter-finals: Stoke v Grimsby (7.0).
GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth *v Porthmadog; Briton Ferry v Barry;* Cemaes Bay v Flint Town; Conwy v Holywell; Ton Pentre v Cwmbran.
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Sheppey v Beckenham.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hailsham v Peacehaven and Telscombe, Hassocks v Saltdean, Three Bridges v Southwick.
MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey v Biggleswade; London Colney v Royston.
ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: *Premier division: Meir Ka v Alvechurch;* Worcester v Kings Heath.
HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Endsleigh v Almondsbury; Shortwood v *Tuffley.*
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Whickham v Crook; Whitby v Bedlington Terriers.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallam v North Ferriby.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Prescot Cables v St Helens.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Soham v Warboys; Sudbury Res v Diss.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: *Christchurch v Eastleigh.*
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Spalding v S and L Corby
SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools girls' *under-16 Vimto Trophy: Semi-final:* Archbishop Grimshaw, West Midlands v Winston Churchill, Surrey (at Solihull Borough, 2.0).

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship
First division
Wasps v London Irish
(at Loftus Road, 7.45) ....
Fourth division north
Nuneaton v Worcester (7 30) ....
CLUB MATCHES: Lydney v Royal Navy (7.0); Moseley v RAF (7.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Hull Kingston Rovers v Hull; Leeds v Castleford; St Helens v Wigan.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester v London (7.0); Newcastle v Birmingham (7.30); Leicester v Worthing (8.0); Crystal Palace v Thames Valley (8.0).

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Los Angeles Lakers 109 New Jersey 84
BUDWEISER ALL-STAR GAME: North 162 South 146 (at Sheffield Arena)

CRICKET

PERTH: Sheffield Shield: Final (final day of five). Queensland 320 and 309. Western Australia 165 and 304 (T M Moody 152, A C *Gilchrist* 48; M S Kasprowicz 5-93). Queensland beat Western Australia by 160 runs.

0800 111 210

Second one-day international match

New Zealand v Sri Lanka

CHRISTCHURCH (Sri Lanka won toss): Sri Lanka beat New Zealand by six wickets

NEW ZEALAND

B A Young b Zoysa	21
N J Astle c Mahanama b Zoysa	23
M J Horne b Muralitharan	13
*S P Fleming run out	31
C L Cairns c Dharmasena b Jayasuriya	27
†A C Parore c and b Jayasuriya	19
C Z Harris not out	38
G R Larsen c De Silva b Muralitharan	13
S B Doull c and b Jayasuriya	1
D L Vettori b De Silva	4
H T Davis not out	4
Extras (b 1, w 2, nb 4)	7
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	201

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-49, 3-68, 4-104, 5-134, 6-142, 7-157, 8-164, 9-170

BOWLING: Vaas 7-0-45-0; Zoysa 7-1-29-2; Dharmasena 10-0-32-0; Muralitharan 10-1-42-2; Jayasuriya 10-0-26-3; Chandana 4-0-22-0; De Silva 2-0-4-1

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya c Larsen b Harris	79
†R S Kaluwitharana c Cairns b Harris	15
R S Mahanama c Cairns b Larsen	4
P A de Silva b Astle	66
*A Ranatunga not out	19
H P Tillekeratne not out	13
Extras (b 1, w 3, nb 2)	6
Total (4 wkts, 35.5 overs)	202

U U Chandana, H D P K Dharmasena, W P U J C Vaas, M Muralitharan and D N T Zoysa did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-68, 2-73, 3-137, 4-183.

BOWLING: Doull 5.5-1-38-0, Davis 8-0-58-0; Harris 10-0-38-2; Larsen 5-0-23-1; Vettori 2-0-21-0; Astle 5-0-23-1

Man of the match: S T Jayasuriya

TOUR MATCH. Bridgetown (final day of three): Indians 210 and 166-5 (S C Ganguly 75no); Barbados 338-4 dec. *Match drawn*

FOOTBALL

Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal 1 Liverpool 2. Middlesbrough 1 Nottingham Forest 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	31	18	9	4	61	33	63
Liverpool	31	17	9	5	53	26	60
Arsenal	32	16	9	7	52	28	57
Newcastle	30	15	7	8	59	36	52
A Villa	31	14	8	9	37	27	50
Chelsea	31	13	10	8	51	44	49
Sheff Wed	31	12	13	6	41	37	49
Wimbledon	30	12	10	8	42	37	46
Leeds	32	11	8	13	26	34	41
Tottenham	31	11	6	14	38	43	39
Leicester	31	10	9	12	37	44	39
Blackburn	31	8	12	11	33	32	36
Everton	31	9	9	13	37	45	36
Derby	31	8	11	12	35	47	35
West Ham	31	8	9	14	31	41	33
Sunderland	32	8	9	15	29	48	33
Middlesbro	31	9	8	14	44	52	32
Nottm F	33	6	13	14	28	49	31
Coventry	32	6	12	14	27	46	30
Southampton	31	6	9	16	39	51	27

CORRECTED RESULT: Spalding Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Kidderminster 1 Farnborough 1 (aet, 0-0 after 90min, 3-3 on agg; Kidderminster win on away-goals rule)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Hyde 2 Guiseley 2.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham and Redbridge 0 Aylesbury 2

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Swansea 0 Bristol Rovers 4, Swindon 1 Millwall 0, Tottenham 3 Chelsea 3

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Leicester 0 Wolverhampton 1 Second division: Shrewsbury 3 Bradford 1; Stockport 4 Hull 0. League Cup: Quarter-finals: Huddersfield 1 Walsall 3. York 2 Wrexham 1

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Ilford 0 Brentwood 1

FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Blackburn 2 Norwich 1

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Estrela Amadora 1 Benfica 1

SPANISH LEAGUE: Sporting Gijón 2 Valencia 1

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: São Paulo championship: Uniao São João 3 Juventus 2, Rio Branco 1 Santos 1, Mogi Mirim 0 Botafogo 0; Corinthians 8 Guarani 2, Araatuba 0 Portuguesa 2; Portuguesa Santista 2 São Jose 2, Internacional 2 Palmeiras 2; São Paulo 1 America 0. Rio de Janeiro championship: Americano 1 Madureira 0; Itaperuna 1 Olaria 1, Bangu 1 Fluminense 0; Flamengo 3 Vasco Da Gama 1; America 1 Botafogo 2

ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: San Lorenzo 3 Rosario Central 1, Newell's 2 Huracan 0, Colon 3 Estudiantes 1; Gimnasia La Plata 1 Racing 0; Lanus 1 Gimnasia Jujuy 1, Huracan Corrientes 1 Platense 1, Velez 2 Banfield 1; Independiente 4 Union 4, River Plate 3 Boca Juniors 3, Ferro 2 Deportivo Español 1

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Bolivia 6 Jamaica 0 (in Oruro, Bolivia).

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Montaigu Tournament: England 2 Greece 0 (Les Sables d'Olonne) Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Quarter-final: West Midlands 2 Lancashire 1 (aet). English Girls Shield: Semi-final: Gravesham 2, Bexley 1 English Schools Durham Festival: Gravesham 2 Derwentside 2, Leeds 1 South Tyneside 0; Sunderland 4 Hartlepool 3; Allerdale 3 Darlington 3; Luton 3 Bishop Auckland 5.

GOLF

SONY WORLD RANKINGS (US unless stated). 1, G Norman (Aus) 11.11pts avg; 2, T Lehman 9.59; 3, C Montgomerie (Scot) 9.07; 4, M O'Meara 8.70; 5, E Els (SA) 8.52; 6, J Ozaki (Japan) 8.33; 7, N Faldo (Eng) 8.14; 8, P Mickelson 8.04; 9, N Price (Zim) 7.93; 10, F Couples 7.65; 11, S Elkington (Aus) 6.93; 12, D Love 6.82; 13, S Hoch 6.25; 14, T Woods 6.18; 15, C Pavin 5.98; 16, S Jones 5.80; 17, D Duval 5.69; 18, S Stricker 5.59; 19, B Langer (Ger) 5.35; 20, M *McNulty (Zim) 5.13*

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Montreal 3 Boston 1; New York Rangers 3 Pittsburgh 0; Edmonton 5 San Jose 1, Vancouver 2 Los Angeles 2 (OT)

MOTOR RALLYING

PORTUGUESE RALLY (leading positions on second day) 1, T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi Lancer) 2hr 44min 10sec; 2, K Eriksson (Swe, Subaru Impreza) at 10sec; 3, F Loix (Bel, Toyota Celica) 2min; 4, A Schwarz (Ger, Ford Escort) 3.52; 5, G de Mevius (Fr, Ford Escort) 7.32; 6, J P Richelmi (Monaco, Ford Escort) 10.48.

NETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Hirondelles 69 Harborne 46; Oakwood 32 Wyvern 52; New Cambell 44 Linden 41

SNOOKER

TELFORD: Embassy world championship: Final qualifying round: G Horne (Scot) bt S James (Eng) 10-7; B Jones (Eng) bt D Finbow (Eng) 10-4; S Lee (Eng) bt D Henry (Scot) 10-5; W Snaddon (Scot) bt R Lawler (Eng) 10-7, M Davis (Eng) bt J Ferguson (Eng) 10-5, M Price (Eng) bt J Michie (Eng) 10-9; B Morgan (Eng) bt D O'Kane (NZ) 10-6, G Wilkinson (Eng) bt M Judge (Ire) 10-9; S Mazrocis (Eng) leads C Small (Scot) 5-4; W Thorne (Eng) leads D Dale (Wales) 5-4; N Foulds (Eng) leads D McLellan (Scot) 5-4; T Griffiths (Wales) leads A Burden (Eng) 6-3; A Hicks (Eng) leads M Stevens (Wales) 7-2; L Walker (Wales) leads D Taylor (N Ire) 5-4; A Hamilton (Eng) leads K Broughton (Eng) 6-3; G Dott (Scot) leads J Swail (N Ire) 5-4.

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg (Sydney to Cape Town, positions as at 13:58 GMT yesterday, with miles to Cape Town): 1, Group 4 2,570; 2, Concert 2,585; 3, Global Teamwork 2,604; 4, Toshiba Wave Warrior 2,610; 5, Save The Children 2,616; 6, Commercial Union 2,678; 7, Motorola 2,689; 8, Ocean Rover 2,765; 9, 3Com 2,770; 10, Time & Tide 2,798; 11, Nuclear Electric 2,838; 12, Courtaulds International 2,854; 13, Pause To Remember 2,898; 14, Heath Insured II 2,907.

SPEEDWAY

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Wolverhampton 52 Swindon 38

SQUASH

BUDAPEST: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: P Nicol (Scot) bt P Johnson (Eng) 15-10, 15-5, 15-12; D Ryan (Ire) bt S Meads (Eng) 15-7, 15-5, 15-3; A Hands (Eng) bt Zubair Jahan (Pak) 15-7, 15-5, 12-10 ret; J Power (Can) bt J Knapp (Aus) 13-15, 15-10, 15-6, 15-5. Semi-finals: Nicol bt Ryan 17-14, 17-16, 15-13; Power bt Hands 15-9, 15-6, 15-9. Final: Power bt Nicol 15-11, 11-15, 15-3, 15-5

ZURICH: Grasshopper Cup: Men: Semi-finals: A Gough (Wales) bt *D Forslund* (Swe) 9-0, 9-6, 8-10, 9-6; J White (Aus) bt J Kyttanen (Fin) 10-8, 9-3, 9-2. Final: Gough bt White 6-9, 9-2, 9-4, 5-9, 9-3. Women: Semi-finals: C Owens (Aus) bt D Holleran (US) 9-2, 9-3, 9-2; R Cooper (Aus) bt P Beams (NZ) 9-4, 9-0, 9-6. Final: Owens bt Cooper 9-6, 9-3, 9-6.

HELSINKI: European junior championships: Boys: Quarter-finals: J Russell (Eng) bt M Aldag (Ger) 9-3, 4-9, 9-5, 9-5; T Olli (Fin) bt L Czaska (Austria) 9-0, 9-7, 1-9, 9-3; *A Stevenson (Eng) bt T Berden (Holl)* 9-2, 9-8, 9-6, M Eggenberger (Switz) bt A Grant (Eng) 6-9, 9-7, 9-2, 10-8. Girls: Quarter-finals: C Cogan (Eng) bt E Sado (Sp) 9-1, 9-5, 9-7; K Hannes (Bel) bt K Allison (Eng) 9-7, 9-3, 9-1; T Bailey (Eng) bt K Cauwels (Bel) 9-5, 9-6, 3-9, 9-5; I Stoehr (Fr) bt D Lloyd-Walter (Eng) 4-9, 9-7, 9-5, 9-5.

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton championships: Men: Third round: H Dreekman (Ger) bt G Kuerten (Br) 7-6, 3-6, 7-6; T Muster (Austria) bt T Haas (Ger) 6-1, 6-2; M Larsson (Swe) bt S Doessel (Cz) 5-7, 7-5, 6-3; J Courier (US) bt S Draper (Aus) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, R Krajicek (Holl) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-3, 7-5; P Sampras (US) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-3, 7-6, M Tillstrom (Swe) bt C Moya (Sp) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; A Corretja (Sp) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-1, 7-5. Women: Fourth round: S Testud (Fr) bt A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) 6-0, 7-5; B Paulus (Austria) bt A Fusai (Fr) 6-1, 2-6, 6-1; M Hingis (Switz) bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) 6-3, 2-6, 6-3; M J Fernandez (US) bt L Davenport (US) 6-2, 6-4; I Majoli (Cro) bt B Schett (Ger) 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, M Seles (US) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-2, 6-1; J Novotna (Cz) bt A Kournikova (Russ) 6-3, 6-4, I Spirlea (Rom) bt C Rubin (US) 1-6, 7-6, 7-6.

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هكذا من الأصل

RUGBY UNION

Europeans must cut demands

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

REPRESENTATIVES of the five nations have the opportunity in Dublin today to make far-reaching decisions over the structure of European club rugby, but only if they can see concessions over the undue demands now being made on the game's leading players.

The reconstituted board of the European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) will assemble in constructive mood and progress should prevail, though it will do so only if it is acknowledged that there must be self-regulation on international fixtures as well as in a European and domestic context.

"We are seeing very clearly this month and next month that there are too many matches," Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, said yesterday. Wheeler and Bill Beaumont, who will represent English interests, recognise that the players must be given some break from the *ad hoc* regime that professional rugby has imposed.

"I don't think it does any good for one section to point the finger at the other two — international, European or domestic — and suggest there are too many matches," Wheeler said. "All three sections have to agree on a sensible policy which will reduce playing commitments."

Indeed, Michel Palmié, one of France's representatives, will take to Dublin proposals for European fixtures to take place every third week during the first half of the season, though the French also seek the expansion of the European Conference, the second-tier competition, to include teams from Spain, Holland and Germany.

The block-booking of November for international fixtures represents a huge hole in the club season, but England have an additional reason for seeking to stagger the European competition, because there will be a new sponsor for the first and second divisions.

The company taking over from the Courage brewing firm is likely to be known next month, but will clearly seek an impressive start to the season rather than a fortnight of games before a long break for Europe.

More pointedly, all the ERC directors will hope to receive details of the recent five-year broadcasting agreement with satellite television so that club budgets can be drawn up.

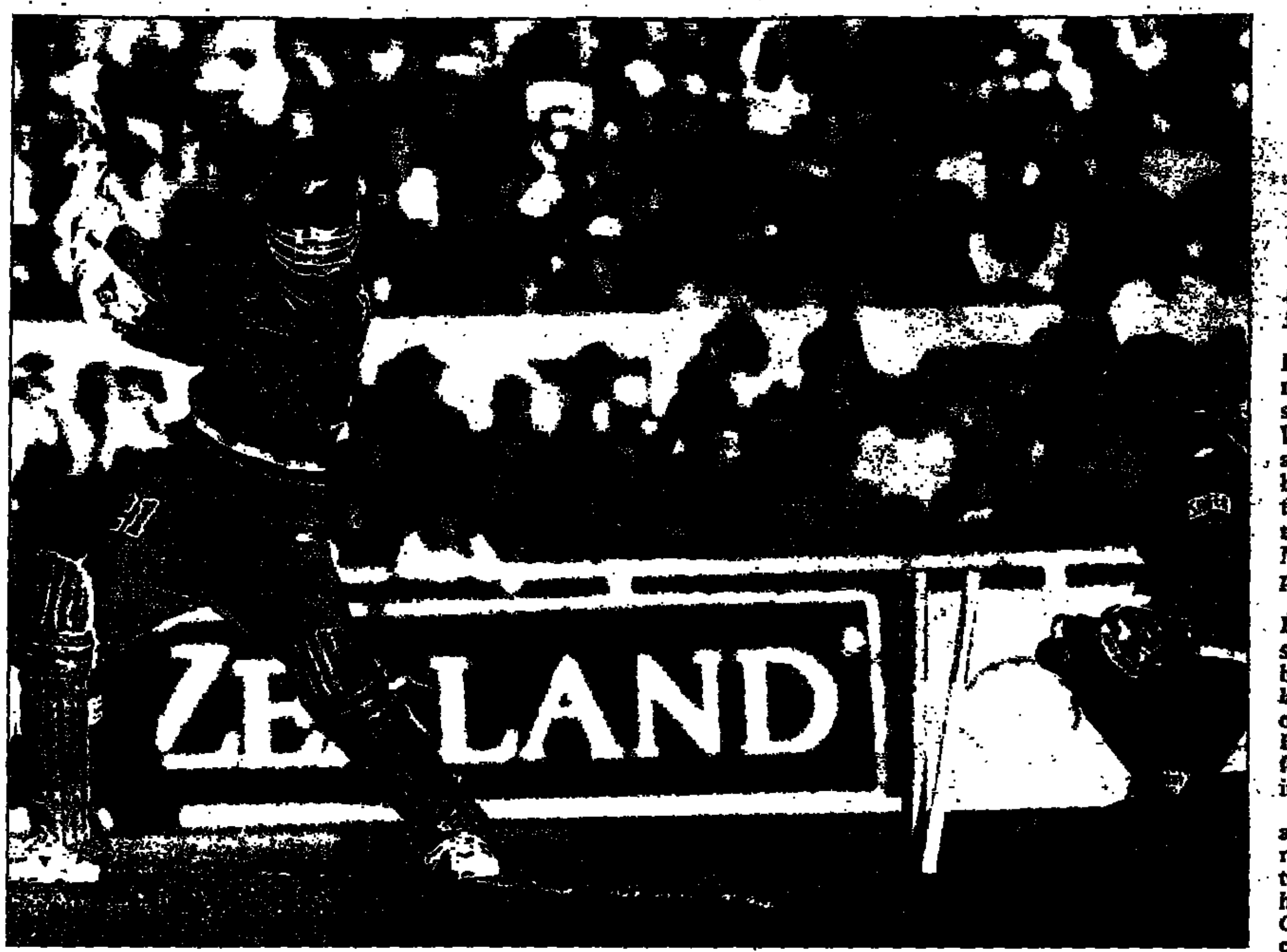
Ironically, Brive, the Heineken Cup-holders, have hinted at attempts to reverse the trend of French players signing for British clubs. They have been in touch with Nigel Walker, the Cardiff and Wales wing, though Walker has told them that he still has a year of his existing contract to run.

Brive are also considering whether to play Christophe Lamaison this weekend, despite his 30-day suspension for foul play in the France game with Scotland earlier this month. They perceive the ban as restraint of trade and have asked the French federation for a ruling.

Chris Sheasby, back from the World Cup sevens in Hong Kong, can help Wasps to go six points clear at the top of the Courage Clubs Championship tonight. Sheasby plays at No 8 in the XV that will meet London Irish at Loftus Road, but Simon Geoghegan must be satisfied with a place among the Bath replacements when they play away to West Hartlepool tomorrow.

Geoghegan, a long shot for selection next week by the British Isles, has played only one league match this season before operations on his toes.

☐ Steve Lander, who officiated in the controversial Pilkington Cup final between Bath and Leicester last May, will referee the semi-final between Gloucester and Leicester at Kingsholm on Saturday. Neil Back, the Leicester flanker, earned a suspension when he pushed Lander after the final whistle last May and, should Back be selected, it will be the first occasion on which he and Lander have taken the field together since.



Vettori, of New Zealand, is bowled by De Silva, of Sri Lanka, in the one-day international in Christchurch yesterday. Sri Lanka won by six wickets after the first game was rained off. Scoreboard, page 48

SAILING

Golding maintains lead despite damage

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

DESPITE a knock-down last week that caused considerable damage but no injuries, Mike Golding's disciplined crew on *Group 4* is continuing to lead the storm-battered BT Global Challenge fleet as the yachts grind their way past the Kerguelen Islands in the Southern Ocean.

Yesterday *Group 4* held a slender lead over Chris Tibbs, on *Concert*, whose performance on this fourth leg of the race, taking the crews from Sydney to Cape Town, underlined how strongly he would have been in contention for overall honours had *Concert* not been dismasted during the second leg.

Tibbs is just 20 miles ahead of Merfyn Owen, on *Global Teamwork*, in third position, with the two yachts in second and third places overall. *Toshiba Wave Warrior*, skippered by Simon Walker, and *Save The Children* (Andy Hindley) are in a close-fought contest for fourth and fifth places respectively. The fleet is continuing to fight unrelenting westerly gales in the southern Indian Ocean, causing considerable damage to several boats including *Pause To Remember*, which broke her boom early on Sunday at a position around 3,200 miles from Cape Town.

Skippered by Captain Tom O'Connor, the chief sailing instructor of the Irish Defence Forces, *Pause* was yesterday sailing along in thirteenth position under headsails and a free-flying trysail on the mast as her crew continued its repair to the boom.

It has taken three of them 48 hours to complete the work, which has involved cutting a 1ft section of the boom to use as a sleeve to join the two main pieces together. The assembly has been secured using bolts cannibalised from a bar in the forepeak locker used to hang spare sheets.

ROWING

Impressive Oxford show early promise

OXFORD produced some interesting exercises in their morning outing yesterday (Mike Rosewell writes). René Mijnders, their coach, had them hitting rates of 65, 51 and 48 strokes per minute in bursts of upright rowing, body-swing rowing and quarter-slide activity. Apparently, when they beat the France national eight in Amsterdam over 250 metres ten days ago, they hit a rate of 50 on full slide.

The Boat Race rate will be about 34/35 and, on their way home to Putney from Barnes, Mijnders had his crew doing bursts of 20 strokes at this rate.

Cambridge had an outing before Oxford but did very little work. Even in the smooth water, the boat was tipping to bow side and being rigged with stroke on that side.

A later Cambridge outing proved little better. On high water, with swirling waves, the crew's bow-side lurch persisted in a five-minute row, at 27/28, from Hammersmith Bridge to the Bandstand.

Long chats from the coaches, Robin Williams and Harry Mahon, followed and a second five minutes at 28, against the tide from Hammersmith to Barn Elms, was marginally better.

Oxford had no such balance problems when they warmed up for an evening outing against an Old Blues crew. In an initial 1½-minute downstream row from Chiswick Steps, Oxford took a length in spite of settling to 35½. In the second row, a five-minute piece, Oxford gave the Old Blues a two-length lead, were level after 1½ minutes and won by seven lengths.

Some observers thought that Oxford would have won last year if the Boat Race had been on Wednesday. With three days to go, Mijnders has to keep his crew focused.

BOAT RACE 1997
Saturday, 4.10pm
TV: Grandstand (BBC1)
TIMES OF OUTINGS TODAY
CAMBRIDGE: 1.30pm
OXFORD: 10am and 2pm

CRICKET

Gibraltar serve up bowling fit for Bacchus

FAOUD BACCHUS, the former West Indies Test player, scored 100 not out as the United States batsmen took advantage of the Gibraltar bowling to score 312 for six, the highest total of the first two days of the ICC Trophy in Malaysia (a Special Correspondent writes).

Bacchus, one of 11 West Indians in the United States squad, was watched by "Bobby" Narasimha Rao, the Ireland assistant coach, who was on the opposing side when Bacchus opened the batting for West Indies against India in January 1979.

Rao, on a spying mission ahead of the key match tomorrow in group D between the two teams, saw little to disturb his confident Ireland side as Gibraltar dropped five catches *en route* to losing by 189 runs.

At the start of this qualifying tournament, Kenya were all but inked in for one of the three World Cup places on offer, but they stuttered for a second day before passing Singapore's score of 89 with only two wickets to spare.

Martin Suji, who earlier took three for nine, steered Kenya home with 14 not out. The form of the first two days suggests that Ireland and the United States could squeeze Kenya into third place in the group and out of contention.

Holland again bowled well to dismiss Namibia for 90 before passing that total without losing a wicket; they are now within one win of qualifying from group C. Bangladesh confirmed their superiority in group B, beating West Africa by nine wickets in short time.

The weakest of the four groupings is group D, in which Bermuda, the top seeds, were surprisingly beaten by Hong Kong. In the same group, Scotland were unconvincing as they began their campaign with a six-wicket success against Papua New Guinea.

SCORES: Group A: Singapore 89 (44.4 overs). Kenya 90-8 (30 overs). Kenya win by two wickets. United States 312-6; Gibraltar 123-9. United States win by 189 runs. Group B: West Africa 82 (39.1 overs); Bangladesh 83-1 (19.4 overs). Bangladesh win by nine wickets. Malaysia 189 (49.3 overs); Argentina 108 (40 overs). Malaysia win by 81 runs. Group C: Namibia 90 (48.5 overs); Holland 91-0 (23.5 overs). Holland win by ten wickets. Fiji 128 (41.1 overs). Canada 130-6 (38.2 overs). Canada win by four wickets. Group D: Bermuda 227-9; Hong Kong 228-7 (49.4 overs). Hong Kong win by three wickets. Papua New Guinea 120 (36.1 overs); Scotland 121-4 (38.1 overs). Scotland win by six wickets.

Diary, page 18

Dalmiya is chosen as new ICC leader

JAGMOHAN DALMIYA, of India, will be the next head of the International Cricket Council (ICC) for a three-year term after the retirement of Sir Clyde Walcott in June.

Singh Dungarpur, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said that the board had decided on Dalmiya as the country's chosen nominee last month, before the ICC decided in Kuala Lumpur that India would select the next ICC chief after the retirement of Walcott, who comes from Barbados.

☐ Sanath Jayasuriya scored 79 from 63 balls and Aravinda de Silva a swift 66 as Sri Lanka coasted to a six-wicket victory in the first one-day international against New Zealand in Christchurch yesterday. Chasing a meagre total of 201, Sri Lanka reached their target in 35.5 overs.

☐ **Motor rallying:** Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden, held a slender lead in the Rally of Portugal yesterday as Tommi Makinen, the world champion, from Finland, closed to within one second after 17 stages. Eriksson, driving a Subaru, had started the second leg with a 14-second lead but slowly lost his advantage on the four morning stages.

☐ **Cricket:** Queensland completed a 160-run victory over Western Australia in Perth yesterday to secure their second Sheffield Shield victory in three years. They were held up only by Tom Moody, the Worcestershire captain, who made 152 during Western Australia's second innings of 304.

☐ **Boxing:** Henry Wharton, from York, was yesterday given his third chance to win a world super-middleweight title when he was paired with Robin Reid, the World Boxing Council champion, in a Frank Warren promotion at the Nynex Arena in Manchester on May 3.

☐ **Cricket:** Nottinghamshire have offered Lance Klusener, the South Africa all-rounder, a one-year contract as they seek to replace the injured Chris Cairns. He is expected to make a decision before the weekend.

☐ **Ice Hockey:** Stevie Lyle, 17, the Cardiff Devils goaltender, has been selected as player of the year by the British Ice Hockey Writers Association.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Drummond Memorial Fund
Scheme to discharge custodian trustees
Reference: CS-56851-CD(L4n)

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at WILDE SAPTE SOLICITORS or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Chaseley Trust
Scheme varying the Charity
Reference: RM/4509/SC

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Chaseley, South Cliff, Eastbourne, BN20 7JH or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL quoting the reference above.

THE DULWICH ESTATE
THE DULWICH ALMSHOUSE CHARITY
CHRIST'S CHAPEL OF GOD'S GIFT

Notice is hereby given that the ACCOUNTS of the Trustees of the Dulwich Estate, the Dulwich Almshouse Charity and Christ's Chapel of God's Gift for the year ended 31 March 1996, may be inspected at The Old College, Gallery Road, London, SE21 7AE, between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. (Mondays to Fridays) on application to the undersigned.
J.C. Wylie, B.Sc. (Est.Man), F.R.I.C.S., M.I.Mgt
GENERAL MANAGER & SECRETARY
Date 26 March 1997

LEGAL NOTICES

INVERLAT INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 2744310

NOTICE TO CREDITORS On 5 March 1997, the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Martin Fishman of P O Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT was appointed Liquidator by the Members.

The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to Martin Fishman, P O Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT by 11 April 1997.

The Liquidator also gives notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A(6) that on 11 April 1997 he intends to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 11 April 1997 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.

The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full.
Dated: 18.3.97
M. FISHMAN - Liquidator

IN THE MATTER OF FASTWISH LIMITED T/A MANTAGOLD BEAUTY PRODUCTS & STUDENT SERVICES
AND
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting of the creditors of the above named company convened under the provisions of S98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, and held on 11 March 1997, I, Melvyn Julian Carter, of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU was duly appointed Liquidator of the company.
M J Carter
Dated this 22 March 1997

LEGAL NOTICES

CH96-B-372 IN
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
LEEDS DISTRICT REGISTRY
BETWEEN:
(1) MARTIN ROGER PARR
(2) ROBERT ALAN HESLETT
Plaintiffs
and
(1) MR CHUNG WAI MAN
(2) ABBEY NATIONAL PLC
Defendants
NOTICE
TO Chung Wai Man
Lately of 106 Sibthorpe Road, London SE12

TAKE NOTICE that on 7 March 1997 a Charging Order Nisi was granted by the Leeds District Registry as follows:-
UPON reading the *Affidavit of* Patricia Rees filed herein on 28 February 1997 whereby it appears that by a judgment made on 18 September 1996 in the High Court of Justice the Defendant was ordered to pay the Plaintiff the sum of £91,107.60 and costs to be taxed if not agreed of which the sum of £91,107.60 plus costs remains due and unpaid and that the Defendant has a beneficial interest in the assets specified in the schedule hereto.
IT IS ORDERED by District Judge Ellison that
Unless sufficient cause to the contrary be shown before the District Judge sitting in Chambers at the Courthouse, Oxford Row, Leeds on 17 April 1997 at 2.45 O'Clock, the Defendants' interest in the said assets shall, and it is ordered that in the meantime that it do, stand charged with the payment of £91,107.60 due on a judgment of the Leeds District Registry and interest thereon at the statutory rate together with the cost of this application.
SCHEDULE
The property situate and known as 106 Sibthorpe Road, London SE12
Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave
7 Park Square East
LEEDS LS1 2LW
Ref. No. SIF001-FMW92003

CH96-P-371 IN
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
LEEDS DISTRICT REGISTRY
BETWEEN:
(1) MARTIN ROGER PARR
(2) ROBERT ALAN HESLETT
Plaintiffs
and
(1) PERCY AMTHERE
(2) GEORGINA OWUSU ANSAH
(3) NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY
Defendants
NOTICE
TO Georgina Owusu Ansah
lately of Flat 2, 76 Flaxman Road, London

TAKE NOTICE that on 7 March 1997 a Charging Order Nisi was granted by the Leeds District Registry as follows:-
UPON reading the *Affidavit of* Patricia Rees filed herein on 28 February 1997 whereby it appears that by a judgment made on 18 September 1996 in the High Court of Justice the Defendant was ordered to pay the Plaintiff the sum of £75,117.05 and costs to be taxed if not agreed of which the sum of £75,117.05 plus costs remains due and unpaid and that the Defendant has a beneficial interest in the assets specified in the schedule hereto.
IT IS ORDERED by District Judge Ellison that
Unless sufficient cause to the contrary be shown before the District Judge sitting in Chambers at the Courthouse, Oxford Row, Leeds on 17 April 1997 at 2.35 O'Clock, the Defendants' interest in the said assets shall, and it is ordered that in the meantime that it do, stand charged with the payment of £75,117.05 due on a judgment of the Leeds District Registry and interest thereon at the statutory rate together with the cost of this application.
SCHEDULE
The property situate and known as Flat 2, 76 Flaxman Road, Camberwell, London
Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave
7 Park Square East
LEEDS LS1 2LW
Ref. No. SIF001-FMW93004

(COMPANIES ACT 1985, s.175)
LEXA UK LIMITED
(Registered in England No. 3057386)

NOTICE is hereby given that:-
1. By a Special Resolution of the shareholders of the above-named Company approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholders held on 20th March 1997, the payment out of capital of £6,000,000 for the purposes of the Company acquiring 3,000,000 A Ordinary Shares of £1 each and 3,000,000 B Ordinary shares of £1 each from Lexa International Corporation was authorised.
2. The amount of the permissible capital repayment as defined by Sections, 170, 171 and 172 of the Companies Act 1985 was £6,000,000
3. The statutory declaration of the Directors and the Auditors' Report required by Section 173 of the said Act are available for inspection at the Registered Office of the Company situated at 14 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA
4. Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the period of 5 weeks immediately following 20th March 1997 (being the date of the above mentioned Special Resolution) apply to the High Court under Section 176 of the said Act for an order prohibiting the payment
Lawrence Jones Solicitors
Sea Containers House
20 Upper Ground
Blackfriars Bridge
London SE1 9LH

Dantow Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 4th April 1997 at 11.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq.
It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.
A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED THIS 21st March 1997
S Neuwirth Director

Arrow Textiles Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 7th April 1997 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor) London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors
DATED THIS 21st March 1997
Michael L Harris Director

BAYROSE LIMITED
Registered Number [illegible] Trading Name: The Brook Nature of Business Licensed premises Trade Classification: 48 Date of appointment of Administrative Receivers: 18th March 1997 Name of person appointing the Administrative Receivers: Ethell Properties Limited Joint Administrative Receivers: [illegible] ACA and K P Barry, FCA (Office Holder Nos. 5784 and 5741) of Leonard Curtis & Co PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd Floor) London W2 6LF

In the Matter of
BASF COATINGS LIMITED
and in the Matter of the Companies Act 1985

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") that:-
1. the above-named Company ("the Company") has approved a payment out of its capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase;
2. the amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £10,000,000;
3. the date of the resolution under section 173 of the Act for payment out of capital is 24 March 1997;
4. a Statutory Declaration and Auditor's report required by Section 173 of the Act are available for inspection at the Company's registered office;
5. any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under Section 176 of the Act for an order prohibiting the payment.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
PEGASUS (BWB) LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 7 Park Square East, Leeds, LS1 2LW on 8 April 1997 at 11am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at 7 Park Square East, Leeds, LS1 2LW between 10am and 4pm on 4 April 1997 and 7 April 1997.
Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge a full statement of account and (unless attending in person) a proxy in the form attached at the offices of Smith & Williamson, The Mounting House, Little Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1YS no later than 12 noon on 7 April 1997. Secured creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meeting. It should be noted that a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated may be passed at the above meeting.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
ALAN MESSENGER - Director
Dated 20th March 1997

NOTICE is hereby given that Mrs Vazira Ahmed Hirji residing at 80B Kipling Avenue, Huyton, Merseyside, Liverpool L36 0UA, widow of Ahmed Abdulla Hirji has made an application:-
(I) as administrator of the estate of Ahmed Abdullah Hirji died (at London on 1st October, 1996) and
(II) as administrator of the estate of Miss Gulbanu Abdulla Hirji (died at London on 28th November, 1995)
to Union Bank of India, Gowalia Tank Branch having their office at 68.70 Jer Mansion, August Kranti Maidan, Mumbai 400 036, India and has requested the said Bank to permit operations of the Bank Locker and/or transfer all amounts in the accounts of the late Ahmed Abdulla Hirji and the Late Gulbanu Abdulla Hirji with said Bank in her favour.
Any persons having any claim by way to inheritance or as legatees or as creditors or otherwise however are hereby notified to inform the Chief Manager of the said Union Bank of India at his aforesaid address within 21 days of publication hereof about their said claim if any, failing which the said Mrs Vazira will be permitted to operate and/or open the said Bank Locker and all amounts and credits in the said accounts of the said two deceased will be transferred to the said Mrs Vazira and all claims, if any, thereafter made shall be considered as having been waived
Dated the 26 day of March 1997
Vazira Abdulla Hirji

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
LM Bathroom Furniture Limited
Registered number 2032941
Trading name(s) -
Nature of business Sale of bathroom accessories
Trade classification 15
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 14 March 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver Midland Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers MD Garcke BJ Hunt
Office Holders No(s) 2360 1139
Addresses No 1 London Bridge London SE1 9QL

Ranford Doors (London) Ltd
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 1st April 1997 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq. It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED THIS 18th March 1997
N Ranford - Director

MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
Notice to creditors
TEUR LIMITED formerly Triton Europe Limited
(in members' liquidation)
Company: 1711518
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF TEUR LIMITED formerly Triton Europe Limited
On 12 December 1996 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and John Francis Soden of Price Waterhouse, Corso Europa 2, Milan was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at the above address by 31 March 1997, which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company is solvent and able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 17 December 1996
Name John Francis Soden
Liquidator

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

MOREY nee SEYMOUR Dorothy Frances Morey nee Seymour, widow late of Epping, Essex died there on 3 July 1996 (Estate about £15,000). The kin of the above named are requested to APPLY to Foskett Marr Gadsby & Head of 181 High Street, Epping, Essex, CM16 4BQ (Ref: M1221C[W) before the 6th June 1997.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

One of the things I recommend a defender to do is to ask himself "would the declarer have done this if he had that?" On the whole it's a useful tool, but not so effective against declarers who should have done "this", but didn't. Today's hand is an example.

Dealer South — North-South game — IMPs

North:
♠KQ43
♥1076
♦A5432
♣3

West:
♠J1087
♥84
♦KQ108
♣752

East:
♠A2
♥3
♦J96
♣AKQ10964

South:
♠965
♥AKQJ952
♦7
♣J8

S	W	N	E
4H	Pass	Pass	5C
Pass	Pass	5H	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Contract: Five Hearts Doubled by South. Lead: king of diamonds

On this hand British international Graham Kirby was East, playing for Nottinghamshire in a county match. I don't see why his partner doubled Five Hearts. East-West had already won the bidding contest by pushing North-South one level higher.

Declarer won the diamond lead in dummy, and what he should have done was ruff a diamond in hand at trick two. Then he has three more entries to dummy (the ten of hearts, a club ruff and a spade) to establish and cash the fifth diamond. In all he makes seven hearts in hand, a spade, two diamonds and a club ruff.

However, after winning the diamond declarer led a club off the dummy. How should Kirby defend after winning the ace of clubs? His best chance is to play a club back immediately. Now declarer is an entry short to establish the diamonds. He can still succeed if he finesses the seven of hearts, but in practice he is likely to go down.

But it was not clear to Kirby — the test I mention above deluded him. He returned a trump, thus making both the seven and ten entries to dummy. Now declarer came to his senses and did establish the long diamond. Difficult to counter bad play.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

GREGORY POWDER
a. Gunpowder
b. Pink face powder
c. A laxative

PLENILUNARY
a. A VIP
b. A diplomat
c. Full moonish

CARRACK
a. A large West Indian yam
b. To mock
c. A big ship

ULTRAFIDIAN
a. Too trusting
b. Going beyond faith
c. An Anabaptist

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Triumph of youth

Etienne Bacrot got off to a flying start in his pursuit of the grandmaster title when he won with Black against the tournament favourite, Viktor Korchnoi, at Enghien-les-Bains.

Korchnoi often chooses obscure openings to throw young players off track, but this strategy backfired against Bacrot, who swiftly established dominance against Korchnoi's artificial system and then won a pawn.

Simply winning a pawn against Korchnoi *is by no means a guarantee of victory.* Black's extra pawn was doubled and isolated and only fine endgame technique by Bacrot enabled him to capitalise on his advantage.

Towards the end, the inexorable advance of Black's h-pawn defused Korchnoi's belated attempt at counter-attack with his knight against Black's queenside pawns.

White: Viktor Korchnoi
Black: Etienne Bacrot
Enghien-les-Bains
March 1997

Nimzowitsch-Larsen Attack

1	Nf3	d5
2	b3	Bg4
3	Bb2	Bxf3
4	gxf3	Nf6
5	e3	c5
6	f4	Nc6
7	Bg2	e6
8	d3	g6
9	c4	Bg7
10	Nc3	0-0
11	0-0	d4
12	Na4	Qd6
13	Rb1	Rac8
14	Bc1	b6
15	a3	dxe3
16	fxe3	Rfd8
17	Nb2	e5
18	Kh1	exf4
19	exf4	Nd4
20	Na4	Nf5
21	Rb2	Nh5
22	Rc2	Bh6
23	Bh3	Qxd3
24	Qxd3	Rxd3
25	Bxf5	gxf5
26	Nc3	Nf6
27	Bb2	Kf8
28	Kg2	Re8
29	Bc1	Bg7
30	Rf3	Red8
31	b4	Rxf3
32	Kxf3	Rd3+
33	Kg2	Ne4
34	Nd5	Bd4
35	Nc7	h5
36	Nb5	h4
37	Nxd4	cxd4
38	Bb2	h3+
39	Kf1	Rf3+
40	Ke2	Re3+
41	Kf1	d3
42	Rc1	Re2

White resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

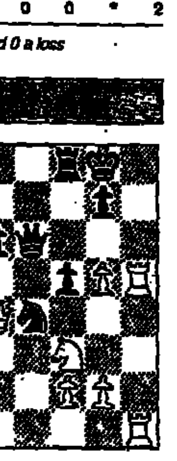
Enghien final crosstable

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	Pts
1 Bacrot	*	1	+	0	+	1	+	1	1	1	6+
2 Korchnoi	0	*	+	+	1	+	1	1	1	1	6+
3 Dorfman	+	+	*	+	+	+	1	+	1	+	5+
4 Rausis	1	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	+	+	5
5 Nataf	+	0	+	+	*	1	+	1	+	+	5
6 Spraggett	0	+	+	+	0	*	1	1	1	+	5
7 Ivanov	+	0	0	+	+	0	*	0	1	1	3+
8 Chabanon	0	0	+	+	0	0	1	*	+	1	3+
9 Fontaine	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	*	1	2+
10 Anic	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	*	2

In the above table, 1 represents a win, + a draw and 0 a loss

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine — Van Mindeno, Holland 1933. White has sacrificed a piece for a strong attack along the h-file. Currently, however, Black has an escape square for his king on f7. Can you work out the clever sequence of moves by which White managed to bottle up the black king?



Solution on page 50

TENNIS: HINGIS, WILLIAMS AND KOURNIKOVA OFFERING REFRESHING ALTERNATIVE

RHONA WISE

Bjorkman, of Sweden, in action this week at Key Biscayne, where he has knocked Rios and Philippoussis out of contention

Men's game needs new blood

FROM ALIX RAMSAY
IN KEY BISCAYNE

THERE are moves afoot, heretical moves, to combine men and women at a series of tennis tournaments next year. *It is heresy in as much as the* men's game has, for so long, been the superior product, basking in the combined glories of Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Boris Becker and the boys. Women's tennis? Who cares? It is just Steffi Graf and Monica Seles.

Looking at what is left of the men's draw here, though; the men are struggling to keep pace with the women. Since the tournament began, the spotlight has picked out the new names of the WTA Tour while the men's crowd-pullers have been distinctly quiet.

Sure enough, Sampras is still going strong — on Monday he skipped past Francisco Clavet to reach the fourth round 6-3, 7-6 — but, when it comes to moments of history, Sampras winning a match is *hardly* worth a mention.

While the women's tour is rubbing its hands with glee at the prospect of Martina Hingis, Venus Williams and *Anna Kournikova growing up* together, the men have few new names to steal the limelight, while the old faithfuls are not as reliable as before. Agassi is a lost cause, Chang has all the fire and passion of a public-service announcement, so much so that he makes Sampras appear fascinating.

The men's fourth round draw here features only four seeds, alongside a group of four *Swedes, two Spaniards* and an assortment of names that struggle to raise a flicker of recognition outside their own country. Even there it is *touch and go with Gaston* Eltis, an unknown qualifier from Argentina, who faces Sergi Bruguera.

The bright young things making their mark on the circuit are equally unreliable. *Marcelo Rios oozes talent but* seems unconcerned whether he wins or not; Mark Philippoussis has all the right qualifications — tall, at 6ft 4in, *and with a thundering service*

Greg Rusedski, the Great Britain No 2, said yesterday *that he hoped to recover* from a wrist injury in time for the Davis Cup match against Zimbabwe at Crystal Palace next week. Tim Henman, the No 1, is doubtful with an elbow injury.

— but his form is up and down. This week both of them fell foul of Jonas Bjorkman, another of Sweden's quietly *gifted players, Rios in the* third round and Philippoussis yesterday.

It was not a good day for Philippoussis. Three points into the match he fell and had to have treatment to an ankle *before losing his service. From* there on he was playing catch-up as Bjorkman confused the issue by reading his service, getting to it early and forcing *Phillippousis to play.*

That is seldom a wise move for Philippousis. He has the ability to leather the ball with such venom that he can either deliver a scorching winner or send the ball into the next county. Yesterday there was rather too much of the latter as he went out 6-3, 6-4.

Maybe it would help if Philippoussis could find a single voice of reason to help him. Over the three years of his career, he has changed coaches more often than his socks. He began with Nick, his father, before working *through* Ian Occleshaw, Paul McNamara, Gavin Hopper, Brett Stephens, Tony Roche, Nick Bollettieri, Todd Viney, back to McNamara and then back again to Hopper — and Philippousis is only 20.

Still, provided that they leave his service alone, nobody is going to complain. Yesterday he was regularly hitting the 120mph mark, with a *134mph thrown in. That* service, though, can cause problems and not just to the man on the other side of the net. Philippoussis does not expect to see his service returned and when it is he is rattled. His solution to that is *to try to hit the ball harder and* harder, which just gets him into more trouble.

At least, with his Ferrari and, on his day, the ability to beat the best, he has something approaching a marketable image. If the rest of the top ten could match the quality of the tennis with a hint of a *personality, they might just* grab the headlines back from the women, even if they have missed their chance here in Florida.

RUGBY LEAGUE

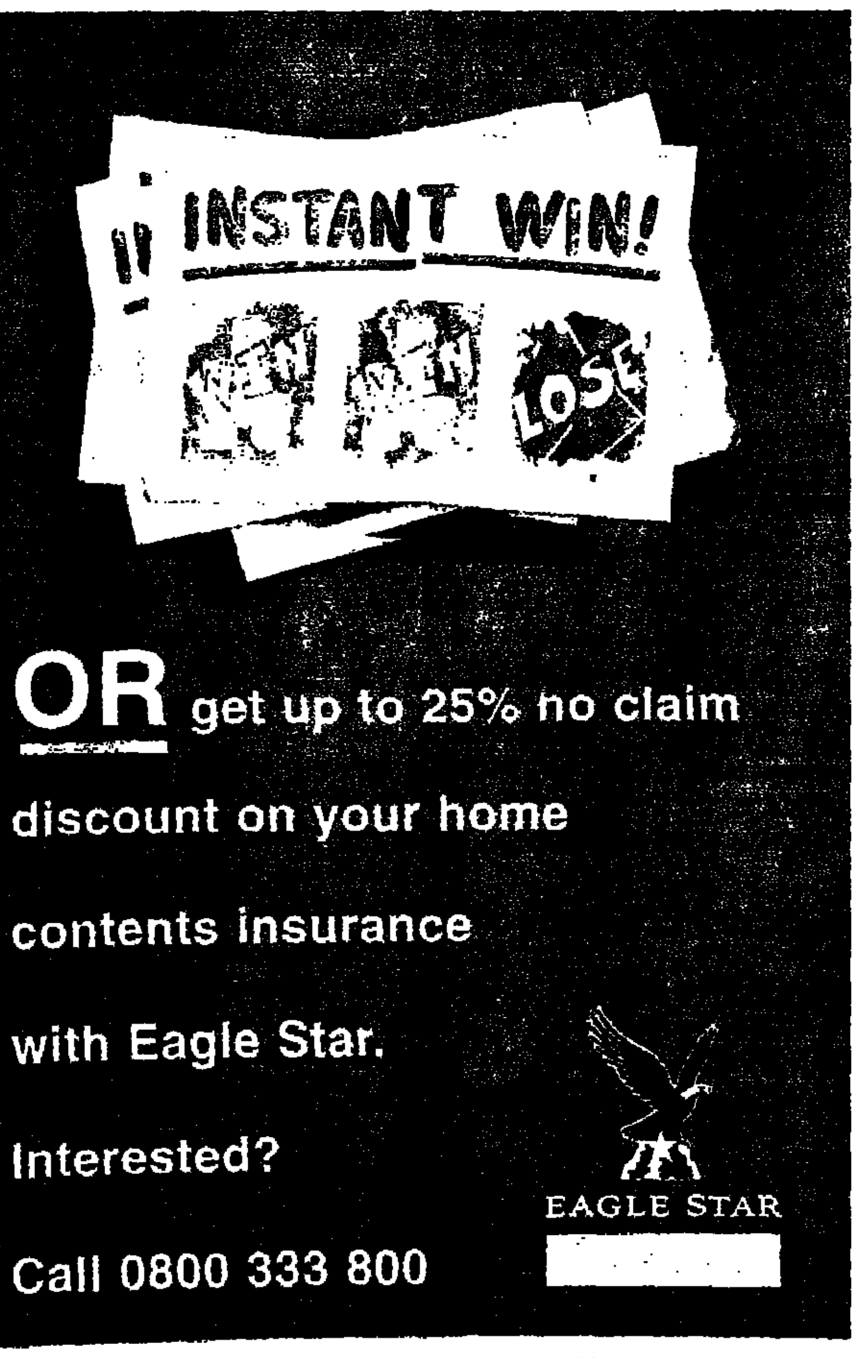
Wakefield clubs to pool resources

AS WELL as coming together to build a dual-purpose stadium, *Wakefield Trinity rugby* league and Wakefield rugby union clubs are looking to exchange players and will pool coaching and marketing resources *in a new joint* venture (Christopher Irvine writes).

In selling their grounds and moving to nearby Durkar, the *site of the proposed* Yorkshire County Cricket Club headquarters, the Wakefield clubs are following the leads of the league and union clubs in *Leeds, who share Headingley,* and London Broncos, who moved in with Harlequins last month at the Stoop memorial ground.

*The 15,000-capacity stadi*um could be ready within two years, ahead of the plan by Yorkshire cricket to leave Headingley. Assistance will be *sought from the* National Lottery. "We are not going to be stuck on the end of Yorkshire cricket. This will be completely divorced," Nigel *Foster, the Wakefield union* club chairman, said.

In the continuing farce over Iestyn Harris's future at Warrington, the club, not for the *first time in nine months of* on-off discussions with St Helens about the £1.35 million-listed Great Britain back, issued a statement yesterday *that said negotiations with the* Knowsley Road club "have been terminated".



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SNOOKER

Griffiths emphasises value of experience

BY PHIL YATES

THAT a year away from the tables has not dampened the *competitive fires that burn* within Terry Griffiths quickly became obvious as he established a 6-3 lead over Alfie Burden in the final qualifying *round of the Embassy world* championship at Telford yesterday.

Griffiths, 49, the only player to capture the title on his first visit to the Crucible Theatre, retired at the end of last season, when 23rd in the world *rankings, in order to* concentrate on his duties as the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association director of coaching.

Those who watched him frequently outwit Burden found it hard to believe that he had not played a match for 11 months. Burden led 3-1 before *Griffiths,* who shot to national prominence by becoming world champion in 1979, brought his vast experience to bear.

He had runs of 72 and 52 during a sustained comeback that left him requiring only *four of the remaining* ten frames to secure a place in the first-round draw. In typically tenacious fashion, he stole one *frame on the blue and two* others on the black.

Dennis Taylor, winner at the Crucible in 1985, and Willie Thorne, another of the *game's easily recognisable for*ty-somethings, also overcame hesitant starts. Taylor fought back from 5-1 down against Lee Walker to trail only 5-4 while Thorne transformed a 4-2 deficit against Dominic Dale into a 5-4 lead.

Andy Hicks, who *included* Steve Davis and Peter Ebdon among his notable scalps *en route* to the last four of the 1995 world championship, *established a commanding 7-2* advantage over Matthew Stevens, of Carmarthen.

Hicks, who has reached the semi-final stage of the United *Kingdom championship,* Benson and Hedges Masters and European Open, constructed *breaks of 44, 46, 120, 42, 69* and 74 while moving into a strong position against an opponent who defeated Stephen Hendry in the first *round* of the Grand *Prix* this season.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49

GREGORY POWDER

(c) A laxative powder, containing rhubarb, magnesium and ginger. The eponym of a Scottish doctor, who invented it, and died in 1822. This should *surprise* no one. "Mmmmm," you murmur appreciatively, as you taste the herbal dust the your hostess has just sprinkled liberally on your Spag Bog. "It is not *unlike gregory powder, isn't it?" and let the triple negative fight* for itself.

PLENILUNARY

(c) Pertaining to the full moon. A usefully obscure word for excuses. "I'm frightfully sorry, Lucinda. Normally we should love to come round tonight, but it's that time of the month again, I'm afraid. And we have to consider poor George's plenilunary problem."

CARRACK

(c) A large ship of burden, which was also fitted for fighting. A cargo battleship or armoured cargo ship.

ULTRAFIDIAN

(b) Going beyond faith. An obscure theological concept. "I suppose it would be outrageously ultrafidian to expect Anatole to arrive on time."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Ne5! dxe5 (1 ... Qxe5 2 Qxe5 dxe5 3 g6 and mates) 2 g6! Qxg6 3 Qe4+ and mates

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TELEVISION CHOICE

Meteorites and marvels

Seven Wonders of the World
BBC2, 7.00pm

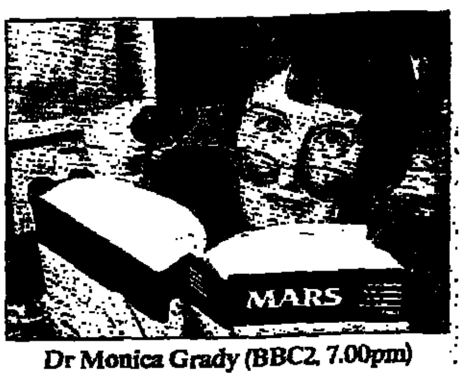
There could be no better subject for playing the wonders game than Dr Monica Grady, the enthusiastic curator of *meteorites at the* Natural History Museum. You feel she could get excited about the telephone book, given half a chance, though none of her seven choices is anything like as mundane. She is obviously a person who loves her job, for meteorites come top of the list (and occupy one third of the programme) and her place of work, the splendid cathedral-like Victorian *museum in South Kensington,* is not far behind. She also enthuses over the Antarctic, partly because it is such a good source for her beloved meteorites, *and the night sky. But* Dr Grady displays an off-duty side as well. Among her wonders is hearing the heartbeat of her unborn son. She confesses that it *reduced her to tears.*

Survival Special: Hunters of the Silver Shoals
ITV, 8.00pm

For a change, a wildlife documentary stays in Britain, or at least in British waters, though the material is no less exotic or beguiling. The story, as so often, is of a delicate ecosystem being thrown out of joint by the actions of man. The pivotal character of the film is also one of the smallest. The sand eel breeds in its millions, forming the silver shoals of the title and providing essential food for grey seals, seabirds such as puffins, guillemots and kittiwakes, *and even whales. The sand* eel is also vital to the diet of cod, haddock, whiting and monkfish. When Shetlanders started fishing for *sand eels in the 1970s, the effect on birdlife in* particular was catastrophic. It was worse even than the *Braer* oil spill which polluted the seas around *Shetland five years ago. But good sense* eventually prevailed.

Modern Times: Time of Their Lives
BBC2, 9.00pm

Brenda Ward and Tony Wright are terminally ill. She has a malignant brain tumour and he has leukaemia. But both have been able to take *advantage of a company which enables them to* cash in their life insurance policies before they die. Cathy Elliott's sympathetic film intercuts their stories and shows how they decided to enjoy their sudden windfall. For Ward, a former nurse, it was a seven-week trip round the world with her *husband, with extended stops* in South Africa and Australia. Wright, too, made for Australia. But the move was permanent, as he exchanged a home in *London Docklands* for a more *spacious one in the* countryside of Queensland. Given five years to live, he has had four of them but is so refreshed by the move that he says he feels *guilty at not dying.* Ward, too, feels better than she has for years.



Dr Monica Grady (BBC2, 7.00pm)

The Big C
BBC1, 10.25pm

Wendy Richard, alias *Pauline Fowler* in *EastEnders*, herself a cancer sufferer, presents a two-part documentary (concluding tomorrow) which sets out to demystify the disease. The focus is on six patients of the Christie Hospital in Manchester, chosen to illustrate different types of cancer. The emphasis is on people responding positively, even when the prognosis is not good. The programme is peppered with upbeat statistics about the improved chances of surviving cancer, though there is no denying the plight of 14-year-old Ian, who has bone cancer and is on his fifth operation. It may seem strange that a woman with lung cancer is still smoking ten to 15 cigarettes a day, though it is the cue for Ryan Giggs and the Neville brothers from Manchester United to urge youngsters not to start the habit. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Sounding the Century: Rites of Spring
Radio 3, 7.30pm

Many will probably regard this as the highlight of the entire week's programming on Radio 3 and not without justification. Stravinsky's opera *The Rake's Progress is a towering and uplifting* work which even those (such as me) who have difficulty with the theatrical aspects of opera find riveting in *its purely aural form. Stravinsky* based the work on drawings by Hogarth depicting the corruption of society and the libretto is by W. H. Auden. Tonight's performance is by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Andrew Davis, and the cast includes the tenors Barry Banks and Robin Leggate, soprano Joan Rodgers, mezzos Nuala Willis and Jane Henschel, baritone William Shimell and bass Alastair Miles.

The Coroner
Radio 4, 7.20pm

This new behind-the-scenes series starts with the voice of James Turnbull, one of two coroners for West Yorkshire, expressing his gratitude to those *who gave up their privacy in order* to take part in the programmes. There is a hint in that statement of the remarkably detailed, often moving and *occasionally harrowing nature of the work* here revealed. The cases are in themselves mostly routine — road accident fatalities, a fall from a roof — but the nuts and bolts of the examinations are fascinating without ever straying into prurience. One of the stars, if she will forgive the word, is Cate Foster, a coroner's officer, whose approach reveals a striking combination of detached inquiry and concerned sensitivity. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe **9.00** Dave Pearce **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** John Peel **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Claire Sturgess **4.00** Clive Warren with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Nick Barraclough **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Alex Lester **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Jim Lloyd with Folk on Two **8.00** Boys of the Lough (r) **8.30** The Music of Japan (2/4) **9.00** Anita Bhalla's Across Two Cultures: Mark Tully (6/6) **9.30** Nigel Ogden **10.30** The Jamesons **11.45** Salt of the Earth (7/7) **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five *4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra with Richard* Hearing **7.20** Trevor Brooking's Football Night. Includes a look ahead to a weekend of international football plus the results of *the National Lottery draw* **10.00** Dominik Diamond **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.05am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Red Dwarf (10/12) **7.30** Discovery **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Global Shake-Out **9.07** World News **9.15** Andy Kershaw **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Red Dwarf (10/12) **11.30** A History of British Theatre *12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today* **12.30** Composer of the Month **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Megamix **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Global Shake-Out **4.15** World Today *4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today* **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.30** Discovery **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian On Screen **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.10** Science View **11.15** Country Style **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** From Our Own Correspondent **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Assignment **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Meridian Books **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Margaret Howard **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Leopold *Mozart* (Trumpet Concerto in D major) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Haydn (Keyboard Sonata in D major) **8.00** Evening Concert. Mozart (Don Giovanni, Overture): *Richard Strauss (Don Juan, Op 20); Tchaikovsky (Variations on* a Rococo Theme, Op 33); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2 in E minor, Op 27) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, *with Penny Gore. Includes Schubert* (Symphony No 5 in B flat); Suk (Summer Impressions, Op 22b); J.C. Bach (Flute Concerto in G); Balakirev (Overture on Three Russian Themes); Chabrier (Suite Pastorale); Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue, original version)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes John Field (Nocturnes No 3 in A flat; No 4 in A); Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No 2); Vaughan Williams (Partita for Double String Orchestra)
10.00 Musical Encounters, *with Edward Blakeman.* Includes Rossini (Les Adieux a la Vie); Martinu (La *Revue de Cuisine*), Locatelli (Flute Sonata No 9 in E); Strauss (Arabella, Act 1, Finale); Copland (Music for the Theatre)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart, with Richard Wigmore. Includes Mozart (Thamos, König in Ägypten, excerpts, Sinfonia Concertante in A, K320e, Zaide, excerpts)
1.00pm Concert Hall. Live from the Wigmore Hall, *London. Florestan Trio. Schubert* (Notturno in E flat, D897); Brahms (Piano Trio No 1 in B, Op 8)
2.00 Midweek Choice, with Susan Sharpe. Includes Schnittke *(Prelude in Memoriam Dmitri* Shostakovich); Rachmaninov (Suite No 2 for two pianos, Op 17); Lennox Berkeley (Four Poems of St Teresa of Avila)
4.00 Choral Vespers. Live from Westminster Cathedral with a homily by the Rt Rev Mgr George Stack. Includes Palestrina (Magnificat Quarti Toni)
5.00 Music Machine. Caroline Swinburne meets the *Zimbabwean* singer Thomas Mapfumo
5.15 In Tune, with Chris de Souza. Includes Alkan *(Comme le Vent); Beethoven (Variations on Kind,* Willst Du Ruhig Schlafen, WoO75); Klami (Overture: King Lear)
7.30 Rites of Spring. See Choice. The witty, *three-act* opera about a corrupted society, by Stravinksy, W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman. With Joan Rodgers, soprano, Barry Banks, tenor, Phillip Ens, bass, William Shimmel, baritone, Susan Bickley, mezzo, Jane Henschel, contralto, Robin Leggate, tenor, the BBC Singers and BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Andrew Davis
10.10 Christopher Logue's True Story: Poetry. Part three of a radio autobiography
10.30 Membra Jesu Nostri, *by Dietrich Buxtehude. The* fifth cantata *Ad pectus* follows Alan Howard's reading of *Maria Magdalen's Complaint at Christ's Death* by Robert Southwell (5/7)
10.45 Night Waves. Tony Palmer explores the enduring nature of drug culture and looks at its impact on the arts, from contemporary fiction to the art gallery. He also discusses Baz Luhrmann's film adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* and asks if it will sell Shakespeare to the modern youth audience
11.30 Composers of the Week: Cowell (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather introduces the first part of the Ray Brown Trio's concert recorded at last year's *Glasgow International Jazz Festival*
1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes **1.00** Borromeo Quartet. Beethoven (String Quartet in B flat, Op 130; Grosse Fuge in B flat, Op 133); Schubert (String Quartet in D minor, D810, Death and the Maiden) **2.00** Concerto Italiano, under Rinaldo Alessandrini. Includes works by Vecchi, Striggio and Banchieri **3.50** BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Simon Joly. Messiaen L'Ascension **4.15** Sylvia sass, soprano. Hungarian *State Orchestra, under Ervin Lukacs.* Verdi (Scene: Willow Song; Ave Maria, Otello); Strauss (Four Last Songs) **5.00** Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 *News Briefing* **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, with *Times* columnist Libby Purves and the guests of the day
10.00 News; Viewing Essential (FM). See Choice
10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour. Jenni Murray talks to Christine Sutherland, the biographer of the Romanian *princess, writer and socialite, Marthe Bibesco*
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time. From Birmingham, with Nigel Colborn, Pippa Greenwood, Bob Flowerdew and the chairman Eric Robson (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Lesley Riddoch
12.25pm Envious Casca. Based *on the comedy thriller* by Georgette Heyer. With James Fleet, Helen Baxendale and Leslie Phillips (3/4) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; The Hollow Man, by John Dickson Carr. Dramatised by Peter Ling. A doctor becomes *involved with a mystery when an illusionist* threatens a professor. Starring Donald Sinden and Nigel Davenport (1/2)
2.45 The Vegetable Patch: Beans. The last *programme* in the series about vegetables
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan. David Brooks investigates a 1,300-year-old controversy when he visits Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini sees *Strictly Ballroom* director Baz Luhrmann's film version of *Romeo and Juliet* and reviews a new recording of music by Arvo Part
4.45 Short Story: *These Blocks* are Actually People, by Ruth Thomas. A young biology teacher changes her mind about both art and people when she visits an art gallery. Read by Emma Currie
5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Nigel Wrench **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Counterpoint, with Ned Sherrin (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Coroner. *See Choice (1/6)*
8.05 The Wardrobe. The series that takes a look at clothing through anecdote, archive and music. This week's subject *is the waistcoat (5/6) (r)*
8.15 The People's Peace Professor Kenneth Morgan explores another important theme of postwar Britain (5/6) (r)
9.00 Costing the Earth. In the first of a new environmental series, Mark Whittaker reports on contraband CFCs, more valuable than crack cocaine, smuggled from Russia to Miami (1/8)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Reading in the Dark, by Seamus Deane. Read by Stephen Rea (3/8)
11.00 Trust. The second series of Wendy Lee's satire *on NHS trusts.* With Nerys Hughes, Keith Allen and Margi Clarke (2/6)
11.30 Doon Your Way. A comedy showcase featuring *Flush FM broadcasting* from a portaloo in Peckham. With Doon Mackichan, Pam Ferris and Lesley Sharp (r)
11.30 Racing Pigs and Giant Marrows (LW)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Wasp Factory, by Iain Banks (3/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 ***As World Service***

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. *FM 97.6-99.8.* **RADIO 2.** *FM 88.0-90.2.* **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and ***radio listings*** **compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأعلى

A positively inspirational night's viewing

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

My six-month-old daughter unexpectedly announces a strange desire to catch at least a moment of **The 69th Annual Academy Awards** (live on BBC2, highlights on BBC1). We creep downstairs, prepare drinks, turn set on and find — surprise — Debbie Reynolds being really quite funny about not being nominated and a wonderful cutaway to Barbra Streisand not laughing at all. Reynolds eventually opens envelope and presents Oscar for best wonderful music to: crikey, a girl I used to be at university with.

Like revenge, under-achievement is a dish best eaten cold and takes some beating at 4am, consumed under the reproachful stare of the next generation. Daughter offers to share bottle and I seriously consider accepting. Creep back to bed, but not before anchoring "Must try harder" note to fridge door with frog-magnet.

Wake up and things quickly improve, thanks largely to the lingering warm after-glow from watching **Network First: The Blind School** (ITV). When film-makers tackle "difficult" subjects such as disabilities, they traditionally opt for one of two routes to ensure we don't take the easy, channel-hopping way out. They either mawkishly sentimentalise (which this did not) or they present those with the disability in such a brave and positive light that switching over, or even off, becomes an act of personal betrayal. Alan Macmillan's film about the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh followed the second path in textbook style, producing television that was alternately moving, inspiring and funny — and unexpectedly easy to watch.

What it did not produce, I suspect, is completely honest television. Where were the tears, the anger, the frustrations that are a part of all lives, let alone young lives coping with what one teacher vividly described as "the grief for the loss of their sight"? Macmillan would point to individual scenes and say it was all there — and we did indeed meet a highly engaging bunch of youngsters, whose response to blindness covered the spectrum from pent-up rage to extraordinary serenity. "What you don't have, you don't miss," shrugged Vicky Haylott, who rather stole the show (and certainly the lead part in the school's production of *Oklahoma!*) through being blonde, beautiful and blessed with a fine singing voice.

Others, however, were not so fortunate and while one can understand Macmillan's decision to concentrate on the positive (activities included roller-skating, rock-climbing and water-skiing), it seemed unforgivable that he used the tragically misarranged features of one little girl to grab our attention in early scenes, without later giving her the opportunity to show she was a real human being.

But with the personable likes of Elizabeth-Ann ("call that a kerb?" she said derisively, bashing a very modest cobble with the white stick she was learning to use) and Vicky around, Macmillan's approach was always going to produce feel-good television. Take Vicky, for instance, on the frustrations of flirting. "I do use a lot of eye contact, but if the guy's blind you do think — what's the point?". In summary, Macmillan's film was an inspiring joy to watch, but somewhere on the cutting room floor were the scenes that might have made it a more honest film as well.

The rest of the evening found me in reflective mood, which is always dangerous in a critic. Take **Peak Practice** (ITV), the current series of which has seen me embark on an extraordinary voyage of discovery. For the opening weeks I thought it was simply too awful to be worth watching. Then there were a few highly enjoyable weeks when it seemed to have become so bad it was unmissable. A happy hour could be spent cringing at the *Peak Practice* horrors — the coffee mugs, the chunky jumpers, Dr Matthew's ill-advised mini-skirts and, best/worst of all, the unrelenting, mood-setting music.

Now, however, my voyage seems to have brought me to the hitherto mythical island of third thoughts. Might *Peak Practice* actually be quite good? I mean, last night's certainly was. OK, so yet another story line began with yet another person collapsing in front of one of the doctor's cars (in real life you can go five years without seeing anybody collapse in public, in Cardale they tumble like nine-pins). And yes, the argument about whether The Beeches should treat drug addicts did get bogged down in still more technical, fund-holding detail. But the acting, particularly from Laura Crossley as the addict who wanted to come off methadone and Darren Tighe, as her ghastly junkie boyfriend, was excellent and the unrepentantly sentimental ending well-handled.

As for Dr Matthews (Saskia Wickham), there was good and bad news. The good news is that she finally appears to have discovered trouser suits. The bad news is that she is being pursued ever more ardently by Dr Attwood (Gary Mavers). I noticed that Attwood drives a car with the registration prefix GYT. Must be one of those personalised ones.

Finally, the warm glow with which I greeted **The House Detectives** (BBC2) is fading rapidly. Last night's Fenland farmhouse was indeed a fascinating building, but the programme was again horribly over reliant on Juliet Morris's gap-filling narration to cram two centuries of history into half an hour and never seemed to get to get to the bottom of anything. And that includes the long-lost cellar, the "discovery" of which was shamefully claimed with the help of a long knitting needle. It's not just me who "must try harder".

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (66713)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (54607)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5752978)
9.20 Style Challenge (4009355)
9.45 Kilroy (4772220)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (80133)
11.00 News (T) **Regional News** and weather (6705317)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (7317046)
11.35 Change That (8992978)
12.00 News (T) **Regional News** (7859046)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5890249)
12.30 Going for a Song (6160317)
12.55 The Weather Show (79224881)
1.00 One O'Clock News (57794)
1.30 Regional News (83901626)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (11298133)
2.05 Police Rescue Angel faces up to the truth about his father (2756046)
2.55 Racing from Ascot (3448607)
3.50 ChuckleVision (5770626) **4.10** Popeye and Son (1759152) **4.35** The Wild HouseLast in series (5704539)
5.00 Newsround (T) (3064442)
5.10 Blue Peter (T) (2715323)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (565997)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (423)
6.30 Regional News (775)
7.00 Noel's Telly Years Olympic ice-skating champion Robin Cousins and gameshow host Ted Rogers remember television and news from 1980 (8510)
7.30 Tomorrow's World Coverage of the Prince of Wales Awards for Innovation. Entrants include a decorator who has invented wood-effect paint and a firm which has dramatically improved the asthma inhaler (959)
8.00 The National Lottery Live Carol Smillie introduces the draw and discovers how one of the lucky jackpot winners is coping with life as a millionaire (614387)
8.15 25 Years of the Two Ronnies Classic comedy clips from Messrs Barker and Corbett (857268)
8.50 Points of View Presented by Anne Robinson (229084)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (2317)
9.29 National Lottery Update (475862)
9.30 Insiders Journalists descend on the prison after a government White Paper is published. Woody is promoted, but a personal revelation threatens to end his upwardly-mobile career prematurely. Last in series (438539)
10.20 CHOICE **The Big C** *EastEnders* star Wendy Richard describes her experience of fighting against breast cancer (470775)
11.15 Under the Influence Sophie Aldred and guests Wendy Perriam and Professor Anthony Clare examine whether or not there are any psychological benefits to be gained from a religious approach to life (331355)
11.30 Ordinary People (1980) Oscar-winning drama, directed by Robert Redford, starring Donald Sutherland and Mary Tyler Moore (77317) FILM
1.30am Weather (3257176)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

[illegible]

6.00am Open University: Catalysts Against Pollution (7788978) **6.25** Sensing Intelligence (7790713) **6.50** Information Technology (T) (9522442) **7.15** News (T) (7694133) **7.30** Lassie (8455775) **7.55** Secret Life of Toys (r) (3134171) **8.10** Wacky Races (5235510) **8.35** Record Breakers Gold (r) (T) (5411133) **9.00** Activ-8 (82591) **9.30** Sweet Valley High (r) **9.55** Oakie Doke (7550171) **10.10** Playdays (9905626) **10.30** Babar (88775)
11.00 Lassie: The Road Back (1974) Lassie loses her memory. Directed by Dick Moder (1883084) FILM
12.15pm National Trust Gardens (5952133) **12.30** Working Lunch (39997) **1.00** Secret Life of Toys (r) (59856539) **1.15** Pains of Glass (102046) **2.15** Racing from Ascot (8838794) **3.00** News (T) (5008189) **3.05** Going Going Gone (9632978) **3.35** The Beauty Spot (5757775) **3.55** News (T) (6112404) **4.00** Today's the Day (688) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (572) **5.00** Esther (T) (3688) **5.30** The Village (564268)
5.55 Turning Points Verity Lambert explains how *Dr Who* changed her life (202442)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation The chance of peace in an inter-planetary conflict is harmed when a diplomat loses the ability to communicate (r) (T) (393404)
6.45 Trev and Simon's Transmission Impossible (989249)
7.00 CHOICE **Seven Wonders of the World** Scientists choose their personal wonders (T) (6152)
7.30 Black Britain Arnold Gordon from Brixton finds he is related to an African girl slave presented to Queen Victoria, who took responsibility for her welfare and education (T) (201)
8.00 University Challenge Harris Manchester College, Oxford v Newnham College, Cambridge (T) (2572)
8.30 Changing Rooms (r) (T) (1607)

Brenda and Steve Ward (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Modern Times** The story of two terminally ill people who are determined to live out their dreams before they die (T) (409591)
9.50 A Woman Called Smith A respected community midwife (T) (384171)
10.00 Embassy (33864)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (810539)
11.15 Bangladesh 25 (r) (145997)
12.00 The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (11027)
12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: Regional differences in health (58060) **1.00** Bloodlines (25485) **1.30** First Steps to Autonomy (39176) **2.00** Get by in Spanish/Get by in Italian/Bon Mot (48992) **4.00** BBC Focus English Heritage (35260) **4.30** Unicef in the Classroom (62850) **5.00** Health and Safety at Work (84640) **5.30** Voluntary Matters (12756)

[illegible]

6.00am GMTV (6156794)
9.25 Chain Letters (T) (4084046)
9.55 Regional News (5876133)
10.00 The Time, the Place (38171)
10.30 This Morning (58749882)
12.20 pm Regional News (T) (7848930)
12.30 News (T) and weather (6188713)
12.55 Shortland Street (6163404)
1.25 Home and Away (r) (T) (47098220)
1.50 Afternoon Live (56255572)
2.20 Vanessa (T) (56255572)
2.50 Afternoon Live (5519152)
3.20 News (1503779)
3.25 Regional News and weather(6458620)
3.30 Tots TV (r) (4503299) **3.40** The Blobs (9212862) **3.50** Sooty and Co (r) (2035607) **4.40** Cone Zone (T) (4696626)
5.10 Look and Cook (r) (T) (5933607)
5.40 News (T) and weather (708775)
6.00 Home and Away (542572)
6.25 HTV Weather (451881)
6.30 HTV News (171)
7.00 Emmerdale The Dingles battle of the burgers hots up and Viv is desperate to make a fresh start for the children's sake. Alan Turner refuses to turn a blind eye to Terry's behaviour (T) (6238)
7.30 Coronation Street Don gloats as he takes a particularly cruel revenge on Mike, while Des decides to draw a line under the past and start afresh (T) (355)

A grey seal hunting (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Survival Special: Hunters of the Silver Shoals** Striking footage of the varied wildlife that inhabits the North Sea (T) Followed by National Lottery Result (7591)
9.00 The Pelican Brief (1993) Complex legal thriller, with Julia Roberts, Denzel Washington and Sam Shepard. A perceptive law student submits a brief about an assassination conspiracy, little realising her theories have hit the nail on the head. Directed by Alan J. Pakula. **Continues after the news** (T) (7355) FILM
10.00 News (T) and weather (90510)
10.30 Regional News (T) (850107)
10.40 FILM: The Pelican Brief Conclusion of tonight's film (T) (13382274)
12.20am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (6664485)
12.50 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (3871602)
1.15 Film: Love Among Thieves (1987) Adventure with Audrey Hepburn, Robert Wagner and Jerry Orbach. Directed by Roger Young (168114)
3.00 Jones and Jury (69492621)
3.30 Not Fade Away (77640)
4.30 The Time, the Place (62896)
5.00 Coronation Street (88466)
5.30 News (15422)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6163404)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5933607)
6.25-7.00 Central News (840997)
12.20am Dating the Enemy (8056447)
1.20 Funky Bunker (5988824)
2.15 The Chart Show (6966398)
3.20 Comedy Central (2068553)
4.15 Central Jobfinder '97 (4951350)
5.20 Asian Eye (8765379)

[illegible]

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (7848930)
12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (6163404)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5933607)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (34442)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6163404)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5933607)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (591)
6.30-7.00 Home Truths (171)
5.00am Freescreen (88466)

[illegible]

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7867065)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6163404)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5933607)
6.23 Anglia Weather (452510)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (840997)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (600881)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (59423)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (47317)
9.00 Bewitched (84959)
9.30 Film: Where No Vultures Fly (1951). Adventure set in Kenya starring Anthony Steel as a game warden in conflict with ivory poachers (71898626)
11.25 The Pink Panther (9750959)
11.50 Terrytoons (4321423)
12.00pm House to House (97423)
12.30 Baby It's You (24065)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (40404)
1.30 Film: Tiara Tahiti (1962) starring John Mills and James Mason as army officers who carry over their wartime class struggle on to the peaceful Pacific island (55126688)
3.20 Fresh Pop (9808341)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (249)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (864)
4.30 Wild Britain (268)
5.00 5 Pump (1084)
5.30 Countdown (220)
6.00 Newyddion 6 (166201)
6.05 Heno (560978)
6.35 Jacpot (468171)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (670249)
7.25 Ffermio (945336)
8.00 Phwoar! (7268)
8.30 Newyddion (6775)
9.00 Spin City (8355)
9.30 Roseanne (47571)
10.00 Brookside (119152)
10.35 ER (363046)
11.30 Caroline in the City (32997)
12.00 Under the Moon (506824)
2.30am-5.30 NBA XXL (4251485)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (59423) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (47317) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (84959)
9.30 Where No Vultures Fly (1951) with Anthony Steel and Harold Warrender. Adventure set in Kenya. Directed by Harry Watt (71898626) FILM
11.25 The Pink Panther (r) (9750959) **11.50** Terrytoons (4321423) **12.00** House to House (97423) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (27881) **1.30** Technological Threat (83994336)
1.40 Diplomatic Courier (1952) Espionage thriller with Tyrone Power, Patricia Neal and Hildegarde Neff. Directed by Henry Hathaway (T) (55115572) FILM
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (249) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (864) **4.30** Countdown (T) (268) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (1084) **5.30** The Real Holiday Show (r) (T) (220)
6.00 Party of Five Charlie heads to Chicago to heal the rift with Kirsten and Sarah learns the truth about Bailey's relationship with Callie (T) (302152)
6.50 Fresh Pop (139317)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) Includes headlines and weather (630305)
7.55 Betrayal (354959)
8.00 Brookside Can Julia persuade Jack to confess his guilty secret? Bel forces Ollie to make a tough choice (T) (7268)
8.30 An Inspector Calls (3/6) A look at the work of the Royal Parks Constabulary, who keep the peace in the four royal parks and the roads around Buckingham Palace. Among the 17 million visitors a year, PC Brian Mitchell and WPC Kim Anderson regularly have to deal with unlicensed food vendors and people sleeping rough (T) (6775)

Experiments on puppies (9.00pm)

9.00 Countryside Undercover Zöe Broughton tackles the issue of chemical testing on dogs by going undercover into one of Britain's largest testing laboratories (T) (8355)
9.30 Fortean TV Father Lionel Fanthorpe investigates a floating nun from Thailand, a miniature skeleton linked with several tragedies and a dog with hypnotic powers (T) (47571)
10.00 ER Carter and Benton deal with the aftermath of Gant's death and the understaffed, overworked unit causes serious problems for Nurse Hathaway (T) (8084)
11.00 Friends Joey starts dating a besotted fan (r) (T) (4012)
11.30 Cheers Woody and Sam make a bet about who can kiss Rebecca first (r) (T) (32997)
12.00 Under the Moon Danny Kelly hosts the interactive sports show (506824)
2.30 am NBA XXL (75718)
4.30 Transworld Sport (14195)
5.30 Backdate (r) (T) (15404)

Easter 5unday.

Channel 5 launches
6pm on Easter Sunday.

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (624881) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (36084) **10.00** Another World (82404) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (46828) **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (65335) **1.00pm** Geraldo (74084) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (60794) **3.00** Jenny Jones (74510) **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (60317) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (5065) **6.00** Real TV (5775) **6.30** Married — with Children (9355) **7.00** The Simpsons (6794) **7.30** M*A*S*H (5539) **8.00** Sightings (13997) **9.00** Silk Stalkings (93133) **10.00** Murder One (96220) **11.00** Selina Scott (61046) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (84881) **12.30am** LAPD (33832) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (1437485)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (6469317) **8.00** Renegade (5478065) **9.00** New York Undercover (8458201) **10.00** Water Rats (6468688) **11.00** Late Show (6082591) **12.00** Hit Mix (8955331)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Silver Bears (1978) (27572) **8.00 The Chairman (1969)** (58606161) **9.45 Fanny (1961)** (62679862) **12.00 Return to Peyton Place (1961)** (74997) **2.00pm The Giant of Thunder Mountain (1990)** (87572) **4.00 Silver Bears (1978)** (3387) **6.00 Painkman (1994)** (51256) **8.00 Congo (1995)** (34521) **10.00 The Shooter (1995)** (869336) **11.50 Red Shoe Diaries (1995)** (822336) **1.10am Double Cross (1994)** (1047485) **2.40 Come Die with Me (1994)** (3190244) **4.05 The Giant of Thunder Mountain (1990)** (296447)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Wake Up and Dream (1946) (29775) **7.30 Shipyard Sally (1939)** (8261775) **8.50 Willy Fog (1994)** (4680133) **10.10 Daddy Long Legs (1955)** (10621336) **12.20pm The Other Woman (1995)** (566930) **2.00 The Pride of Jesse Hallam (1981)** (18442) **4.00 The Kid from Left Field (1979)** (8539) **6.00 Net Worth (1995)** (51238) **8.00 Staggered (1994)** (56743) **10.00 The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill, But Came Down a Mountain (1995)** (118733) **11.40 In the Mouth of Madness (1995)** (230220) **1.20am The Burning Season (1995)** (16898060) **3.25 Pummaro (1994)** (86507843)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Without Reservations (1946) (3254133) **8.00 The Couch Trip (1988)** (3266978) **10.00 Terms of Endearment (1983)** (67343171) **12.20am I, the Jury (1982)** (8146973) **2.10 The Incident (1967)** (2534973) **3.50-5.25 Pat and Mike (1952)** (6832391)

TNT

9.00pm Anchors Aweigh (1945) (59837626) **12.30 Catlow (1971)** (73589350) **1.15am Grand Central Murder (1942)** (17403447) **2.35-5.00 Anchors Aweigh (1945)** (36866737)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (32422) **7.30** [illegible] dling US Mountain Challenge (84626) **8.30** Racing News (32969) **9.00** Sport [illegible] (56539) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style [illegible] **10.00** The Footballers Football [illegible] (40442) **11.00** Hall of Fame [illegible] Charlton (24539) **11.30** [illegible] (25268) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style [illegible] **2.30** **12.30pm** Ringside Boxing [illegible] **4.00** [illegible] And They Walked Away (365[illegible]) **4.59** Footballers Football Show [illegible] **5.00** US Mountain [illegible] Sports Centre (65306[illegible]) **5.00** US Mountain [illegible] Challenge (5369) **6.00** Sports [illegible] **7.00** **5.30** Grass Roots Rugby [illegible] **7.59** [illegible] Formula Three Racing [illegible] **8.00** [illegible] Centre (547607) **8.00** [illegible] League (56097) **10.00** [illegible] (37404) **10.30** Futbol M[illegible] **12.00** **11.00** Formula Three Racing [illegible] **12.30am** [illegible] Sports Centre (99847) **2.30-3.00** [illegible] Super League (32965) [illegible] Centre (56972)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Beach [illegible] **1.00pm** [illegible] **4.30** [illegible] Golf Extra [illegible] **5.00** [illegible] and Beauty [illegible] **5.30** [illegible] — Bobby Charlton [illegible] **6.00** [illegible] Man (83282626) **7.00** [illegible] (5209868) **7.00** [illegible] **11.00-11.30** **7.30** Golf Extra [illegible] Grass Roots Rugby [illegible]

EUROSPORT

7.30am Eurogoals (79794) **8.30** Nordic Combined Skiing World Cup (58317) **10.00** TT Races (12171) **10.30** NHRA Drag Racing (30691) **11.00** Tractor Pulling (22046) **12.00** Motorsports Report (68862) **1.00pm** Kick Magazine (26862) **1.30** Slam Magazine (86626) **2.00** Tennis: Lipton Championship (58084) **4.00** NASCAR Championship (29189) **5.00** Motors (5607) **6.00** Lipton Championship — Live (38220) **8.00** Boxing Cruiserweight (46249) **9.00** Snooker Trickshot (49336) **11.00** Tennis: ATP Tour Review (79648) **11.30-12.30am** Football FA Cup 1981 (24423)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (6343133) **7.35** Neighbours (9108713) **8.00** Crossroads (1870688) **8.25** EastEnders (8134220) **9.00** The Bill (2486572) **9.30** Don't Wait Up (2329607) **10.00** Never the Twain (4096268) **10.30** The Sullivans (2613084) **11.00** [illegible] (8041626) **12.00** Crossroads [illegible] **12.30pm** Neighbours (2433423) **1.00** [illegible] (7561309) **1.35** On the Up [illegible] **2.15** Sorry! (9492292) **2.55** Allo, [illegible] **3.30** The Bill (8093669) **4.00** [illegible] Creatures Great and Small (5146249) **5.00** [illegible] Generation Game (56121249) **6.05** [illegible] (1496071) **6.40** Are You Being [illegible] (2628510) **7.20** Russ Abbot [illegible] **7.50** Bullseye (6618591) **8.20** In [illegible] Health (5338404) **9.00** The [illegible] **9.30 FILM: Who Dares Wins** [illegible] **12.00** Sports Anorak of the [illegible] **12.30am** Hazell (7042114) **1.25** [illegible] Top of the Pops (6374114) **2.05** [illegible] Night

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am [illegible] Factor (2473744) **6.30** [illegible] (99146133) **6.45** Alan's [illegible] **7.00** [illegible] (4961201) **7.15** [illegible] Turn (5384065) **7.30** [illegible] (7143) **7.50** Jussie Smith [illegible] **8.00** Classic Coronation Street [illegible] **8.30** Families (4625152) **9.00** [illegible] (2482442) **10.00** A Fine [illegible] **10.30** Mixed Blessings [illegible] **11.00** Within These Walls [illegible] **12.00** Classic Coronation Street [illegible] **12.30pm** Fanatic (7408688) [illegible] (63169) **1.30** The [illegible] **1.00** [illegible] (7959) **2.00** A Family at [illegible] **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs [illegible] **4.00** The Doctor Series [illegible] **4.30** [illegible] Romance (6660139) [illegible] (6741976) **5.00** [illegible] **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (6641201) **6.30** Families (6665881) **7.00** The Doctor Series (6742607) **7.30** Mixed Blessings (6861065) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (7149404) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (1432713) **9.30** The Comedians (7411152) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (7162355)

Nicholson, MacLaine: *Terms of Endearment* (Sky Gold, 10pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (7822125) **6.25** Quack Attack (8377210) **6.50** Bonkers (3064794) **7.15** The Little Mermaid (1378881) **7.40** Aladdin (2654591) **8.05** Mighty Ducks (3774607) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (1844323) **8.40** The Care Bears (1155539) **9.10** Grounding Marsh (2574626) **9.40** Big Garage (8740607) **9.55** Lamb Chop (9562775) **10.25** Muppet Babies (5623775) **10.50** Dumbo's Circus (1557862) **11.20** Mouse Tracks (4101317) **11.50** Pooh Corner (1882152) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (8534713) **12.35** The Little Mermaid (6166794) **1.00** Disney Presents (1252268) **1.50** Aladdin (62373317) **2.10** Darkwing Duck (53617422) **2.35** Bonkers (5459959) **3.00** Quack Attack (7786779) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (4499220) **3.35** Goof Troop (5489423) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (4500775) **4.10** Goof Troop (9836978) **4.35** Bonkers (5442249) **5.00** Aladdin (5894341) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (8947046) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (433959) **6.00** Mighty Ducks (2881) **6.30** Boy Meets World (3133) **7.00** Brotherly Love (7220) **7.30** Flipper (308317) **8.15** Touched by an Angel (581713) **9.00** Life's Work (44317) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (94201)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (5837807) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7038355) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (8006171) **7.30** Eagle Riders (6092978) **8.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (7083220) **8.30** Masked Rider (7062591) **9.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (7086171) **9.30** Power Rangers Zeo (6862249) **10.00** Casper (7029607) **10.30** Ace Ventura (7082355) **11.00** Life with Louie (2521046) **11.30** The Tick (2522775) **12.00** Incredible Hulk (7073607) **12.30pm** Mortal Kombat (6865065) **1.00** Highlander (6005442) **1.30** Eagle Riders (6865336) **2.00** Hero Turtles (4125249) **2.30** Masked Rider (8051620) **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (4137084) **3.30** Power Rangers Zeo (8506715) **4.00** Casper (4356012) **4.30** Ace Ventura (4651864) **5.00** Spiderman (4109201) **5.30** Goosebumps (2089576) **6.00** Sweet Valley High (6874084)

TCC

6.00am Anne of Green Gables (79249) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (53713) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (32220) **8.00** Batman (69268) **8.30** Art Attack (98539) **9.00** Flash Gordon (7259) **9.30** Bobby's World (16423) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (13607) **10.30** Robinson Crusoe (78775) **11.00** Danger Mouse (60355) **11.30** Gravedale High (61084) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (92355) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy (27539) **1.00** By the Way of the Stars (52084) **1.30** Black Beauty (19510) **2.00** Girl from Tomorrow (6978) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (4625) **3.00** Art Attack (8713) **3.30** Flash Gordon (9171) **4.00** Batman (5978) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from 5.00am to 9.00pm. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Hero Turtles (63152) **6.30** Count Duckula (14715) **7.00** Captain Simian (30065) **7.30** Cryptkeeper (19572) **8.00** Bruno the Kid (24930) **8.30** Hey Arnold! (23201) **9.00** Rugrats (47881) **9.30** Rugrats (81713) **10.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters (92317) **10.30** Doug (43065) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life (15881) **11.30** Bailey Kipper's Point of View (16510) **12.00** Kenan and Kel (34317) **12.30pm** The Secret World of Alex Mack (52201) **1.00** Sister Sister (39336) **1.30** Moesha (51572) **2.00** The Ferals (8794) **2.30** Round the Twist (6442) **3.00** Stickin' Around (7201) **3.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (5959) **4.00** WOW (643269) **6.00** Press Gang (7171) **6.30-7.00** Doug (8423)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (2447626) **1.00pm** Madison (6930510) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (2427862) **2.00** Hangtime (4900171) **2.30** California Dreams (8009510) **3.00** Byker Grove (4996978) **3.30** Blast (8011355) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (6090862) **4.30** Hangtime (8096046) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (4891423) **5.30** California Dreams (8010626) **6.00** Byker Grove (8017539) **6.30** Madison (8091591) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (3283152)

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (3289572) **9.00** The Burning Zone (3289336) **10.00** Tour of Duty (3282423) **11.00** FILM: Bad Taste (6697268) **1.00am** The Burning Zone (4486260) **2.00** Tour of Duty (8321669) **3.00** FILM: The Loveless (2438973) **5.00** Robocop (8648843)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (2510) **7.30** Roseanne (4607) **8.00** Roseanne (8930) **8.30** Monty Python (7065) **9.00** Cheers (29107) **9.30** Taxi (72065) **10.00** Garry Shandling (35046) **10.30** Frasier (44794) **11.00** Armstrong and Miller (79602) **11.30** Monty Python (81201) **12.00** Nurses (97485) **12.30am** Soap (58008) **1.00** Cheers (90244) **1.30** Taxi (46911) **2.00** Entertainment UK (75008) **2.30** Armstrong and Miller (87843) **3.00** Frasier (10008) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling (78196)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm The Guyver (3424442) **8.30** FILM: Star Trek VI (87296591) **10.45** The Making of Mars Attack (8919045) **11.00** The Invaders (6836539) **12.00** The Incredible Hulk (9171553) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (1582669) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3705379) **2.00** Night Gallery (1298485) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (4244260)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting **9.30** Grow with Joe (2437249) **10.00** Two's Country Cooking (4087510) **10.30** Our House (2613626) **11.00** Fix It (5153539) **11.30** This Old House (5154268) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (2604978) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2431065) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8943084) **1.30** Home Again (2430336) **2.00** Hometime (4980317) **2.30** Furniture to Go (8012084) **3.00** Two's Country (4992152) **3.30-4.00** This Old House

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt **4.30** The Nullarbor **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4904997) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (8083572) **6.00** Wild Things (8013713) **6.30** Wild Things (8004065) **7.00** Invention (4984133) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (8000249) **8.00** Mysterious World (4993881) **8.30** The Quest (4999689) **9.00** Unexplained (3285510) **10.00** Mysterious Universe (3295997) **11.00** Warriors (8820133) **12.00** Classic Wheels (2332992) **1.00am** Top Marques (4002640) **1.30-2.00** The Extremists (8640350)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Heroes of the Bible (8768442) **5.00** Driving Passion (3414065) **6.00** De Gaulle (6946510) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Leonard Nimoy (4139201)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with Prize-Time twice an hour.
5.05pm Blockbusters (1669688) **5.50** Spellbound (441978) **6.30** Catchphrase (331688) **7.05** Sale of the Century (408084) **7.40** Gives Us a Clue (286959) **8.20** All Clued Up (351997) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (692442) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (670881) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (491238) **11.20** Love at First Sight (301161) **12.00** Sale of the Century (89071) **12.30am** Hart to Hart (97756) **1.30** Lou Grant (89973) **2.30** Christy (68553) **3.30** All Together Now (23669) **4.00** The Fall Guy (39466)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (2913978) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (3732978) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (8794084) **10.05** Jerry Springer (4831510) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8242539) **11.45** Super Fresco (44612133) **11.50** Brookside (3957797) **12.25pm** Take a Letter (70945862) **12.55** Tempest (3530607) **1.40** Rolonda (8958220) **2.30** The Heat is On (2141404) **3.00** Live at Three (49540978) **4.05** Jerry Springer (5534171) **5.00** Super Fresco (37082084) **5.05** Lingo (84208969) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2145220) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (6211201) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (3809220) **7.05** Brookside (1898997) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (6817997) **8.05** Rolonda (8124442) **9.00** FILM: Infidelity (3258591) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Morning **8.30** Maa **9.00** Ebar Jurbe Mawja **9.30** Abhinetri **10.00** Tara **11.00** The Low Cal Show **11.30** Dance Mania **12.00** Daraar **12.30pm** Dhoop Aur Chaon **1.00** FILM: Maine Pyar Kiya **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.10** Public Demand **5.10** Alif Laila **6.00** Campus **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Kamal Kombination **7.30** Banegi Apni Baat **8.00** News **8.35** Dastaan **9.05** Pathar **10.00** Hit Thi Hit Hai **10.30** Purush Kshetra **11.00** Mano Ya Na Mano **11.30-12.00** Antakshari

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. News, reviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

SAILING 49
Golding keeps lead despite battering from storm front

SPORT

TENNIS 50
Quiet Swede serves to dampen young Australian's fire

WEDNESDAY MARCH 26 1997

Walking wounded continue to give England cause for concern

Le Tissier cuts a lonely figure at Bisham Abbey yesterday after joining the England squad that is preparing for the match against Mexico. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Collymore gets Mexican wave

OLIVER HOLT

Football Correspondent

THEY wore tracksuits not dressing gowns, they played head tennis not dominoes. But when the shell-shocked survivors of an increasingly frenetic FA Carling Premiership season gathered at Bisham Abbey yesterday to try to rescue the England match against Mexico on Saturday from descending into the realms of a hospital soap opera, they looked for all the world like convalescents checking themselves thankfully into a rest home.

Some strolled through the grounds, appearing now and then from behind hedgerows, chatting in the gentle spring sunshine. A few sat in the shelter of a small white marquee at the side of the training pitch, a couple talked on mobile phones.

Matthew Le Tissier, whose foot injury has become something of a *cause célèbre*, stooped to pick up a wayward tennis ball that had bounced over a high fence and threw it back on to the court. But he extended himself no farther. Robbie Fowler, fresh from his altruistic antics at Highbury on Monday night, eschewed entreaties to expand on his attempted largesse and watched training from the sidelines.

On the pitch, the healthiest ones, hardy men such as David Batty and Paul Ince, stood either side of a volleyball-style net, nodding the ball back and forth. Later, another group of five or six players, including Jamie Redknapp and Ian Wright, formed a small circle and indulged in some control practice, firing off one-touch passes like the spring-loaded sides of a pinball machine.

The squad members who actually kicked a ball, though, were in the minority. Five players — Gary Pallister, David Beckham, Nick Barmby, Dominic Matteo and Darren Anderton — did not make it to Buckinghamshire at all, retained by their clubs so they could minister to their injuries. A further eight — Teddy Sheringham, Tony Adams, Gareth Southgate, Le Tissier, Steve McManaman and Sol Campbell among them — were condemned by their knocks and strains to remain idle.

Reduced to 12 fit players, Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, drafted in new men to paper over the cracks with each piece of bad news. Last week David May, the Manchester United central defender, got the call. Yesterday Stan Collymore, the Liverpool centre forward, was summoned, along with Phil Neville, whose brother, Gary, is doubtful for the match, and Stuart Pearce, the Nottingham Forest player-manager, was also brought in to bolster the numbers.

Hoddle did a good job of putting a brave face on things, pointing out that the injury glut would give players such as May and Collymore, who would otherwise have been denied a chance, an opportunity to stake a claim for a place in his World Cup plans.

But after he had dismissed suggestions that his problems had been worsened by a club versus country rift involving spats with leading Premiership managers such as Alex Ferguson, Roy Evans and Graeme Souness, he admitted that, had he been able to foresee the flood of problems, he would have abandoned plans for the Mexico game.

"If I had had a crystal ball, then I would agree with you that in the circumstances it might have been better to have a training get-together rather than a friendly," Hoddle said. "But we had to finalise this five or six months ago and, after four qualifying games, it was the first opportunity in the calendar for a friendly.

"If I had been in charge for 12 or 15 matches by now, then the situation would be different, too. I quite respect that at this stage of the season there are people going for cups and if it had been this time next year, I would not be looking at a friendly game because I know that the players are tired.

"But we are at an earlier stage in our development at the moment and there are still positives rather than negatives. It is not ideal because I would have liked to have worked with a certain system and that may have to wait to the summer now, but if people like Nicky Butt and Stan Collymore get control of a shirt, they have got a shout of keeping it and so this situation may quicken development in other ways.

"Whether they are ready or not is neither here nor there. They will learn how to play at this level and the fact that these things have happened means I can experiment. Even if we lose the match, there would still be a lot to gain."

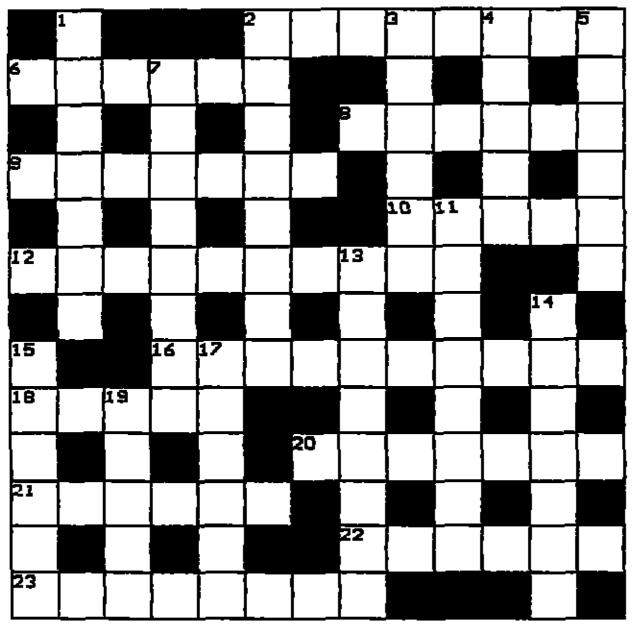
Hoddle, who said he still planned to use the match against Mexico to glean information and experience of how to play against South American teams, insisted that the "lines of communication" between him and Ferguson, in particular, were working well and that disagreements about the release of players, even for checking of injuries, had been exaggerated.

He said he had spoken to the Manchester United manager on Monday night and agreed with Ferguson that it was best for Beckham, who has a hamstring problem, and Pallister to remain in the North West for treatment. He cited the presence of the Neville brothers at Bisham as evidence of co-operation.

Towards the end of his press conference, he even managed a broad grin. He said Pearce, who will be in the starting line-up against Mexico, had been delighted to receive his call-up. "This time," Hoddle said, "I didn't have to go to the manager first."

Fair play to Fowler, page 48

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1051

ACROSS
- 2 Ruskin-libelled painter (8)
- 6 Savoury tart (6)
- 8 Thick, muddy (liquid) (6)
- 9 London cathedral (2,5)
- 10 S American mammal (5)
- 12 Weird pattern in wheat (4,6)
- 16 (Army) non-officers (5,5)
- 18 Large type of steak (1-4)
- 20 Statistical annual (7)
- 21 Thundercloud; saintly aura (6)
- 22 Element I, its tincture an antiseptic (6)
- 23 Alchemical; tightly sealed (8)

DOWN
- 1 Breach; sever (7)
- 2 Very nearly (4-4)
- 3 Violent gust; scream (6)
- 4 Land to Egypt's west (5)
- 5 Spreading from centre (6)
- 7 Tournament winner (8)
- 11 Public money for defendants (5,3)
- 13 Russian (alphabet) (8)
- 14 Kiev its capital (7)
- 15 Appalling smell (6)
- 17 Right to keep job (6)
- 19 A mollusc, the sea-ear (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1050

ACROSS: 1 Truncated 6 Set 8 Endorse 9 Miami 10 Fire 11 Standard 13 Hit man 14 Bandit 17 Fantasia 18 Film 20 Flies 21 Trickle 22 Hag 23 Agreement

DOWN: 1 Twelfth 2 Understanding 3 Curt 4 Twenty 5 Demoniac 6 Slap and tickle 7 Third 12 Malaysia 15 Tempest 16 Winter 17 Fifth 19 Five

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1046
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Absolve 5 Scrum 8 Troop 9 Debussy 10 Mum 11 Pirouette 12 Tom-tit 14 Wizard 17 Dunsinane 18 Pin 19 Neglect 20 Globe 21 Surge 22 Ramadan

DOWN: 1 Attempt 2 Storm 3 Lap 4 Endure 5 Sub judice 6 Rosetta 7 Maybe 11 Privilege 13 Manager 15 Dungeon 16 Factor 17 Dunes 18 Proud 20 Gum

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is P Watford, Epsom, Surrey.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is B Fraser, Broughton Beck, Ulverston.

All flights subject to availability.

Ballesteros loses Ryder Cup fight

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN JACKSONVILLE

THE selection process for the Ryder Cup this year will not be changed and, on legal advice, plans for a ballot of members of the PGA European Tour, seeking more picks for the captain, Severiano Ballesteros, have been put aside.

Ken Schofield, executive director of the tour, made the announcement yesterday in Jacksonville, Florida, where many of the leading European golfers are gathered for the Players' Championship, which starts tomorrow.

It is a moot point whether they were more dampened by torrential rain that caused the course and practice facilities to be closed or by Schofield's announcement. The ten leaders in the Ryder Cup table on August 31 will automatically earn their places in the team for the match in Valderrama from September 26-28, leaving Ballesteros with only two wild-card choices.

Nick Faldo, Colin Montgomerie, Ian Woosnam, Sam Torrance and Bernhard Langer had all spoken out in favour of an increase in the number of selections made by the captainin order to cover the eventuality that Faldo, Langer or Woosnam, among others, might not earn enough points to win an automatic place.

At a players' meeting during the Portuguese Open, Ballesteros received backing for his request for a ballot to see whether there was enough support for the system to be changed. However, the Ryder Cup Committee took legal advice as to whether this could be done at this stage of a selection process that began last September.

"The only lawful basis on which selection procedure could be validly altered at this stage was if the unanimous consent of all playing members eligible for selection was obtained," Nigel Davis, QC, said. Counsel said that any one player could obtain an injunction to prevent such an alteration being put into effect.

An hour before Schofield's announcement, Faldo had emphasised why he and so many of his colleagues felt that a change was necessary. "I think we got away with it last time [at Oak Hill] through Olazábal withdrawing and Woosnam getting in. But this time the old school are getting older. And with me over here you have got Langer, Woosnam, Olazábal and Parnevik all of a sudden perhaps needing a captain's selection. We need the insurance factor."

Schofield: ruled out poll

Ballesteros was keeping his own counsel in Santander last night but may issue a statement today. Faldo's reaction was typical of that of the senior players.

"We should have made a change after the last Ryder Cup," he said. "Seve made a big mistake. He should have said when he was appointed [captain] 'if you want me I want four picks'. He had the chance to get it right. The European Tour has exploded since winning the Ryder Cup. It has been the saviour of our tour. You cannot argue with that."

Neil Coles, the chairman of the European Tour board of directors, said last night: "We recognise that the debate will continue and the Ryder Cup Committee will continue to take note of all comments made by the membership, with a view to discussing the selection procedure for forthcoming matches."

Jockey Cl investigat doctor's la

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESI

A SERIES of blunders that ended belatedly with Tony McCoy being banned from riding in the Martell Grand National next week could spark a radical shake-up in medical services at the 59 racecourses in Britain.

McCoy, the champion National Hunt jockey, was knocked unconscious for about three minutes after a nasty fall at Uttoxeter eight days ago, but a racecourse medical officer failed to enforce Jockey Club rules requiring the rider to receive a hospital check-up and an automatic 21-day riding suspension.

Instead, Dr Andrew Toman stood down McCoy for ten days — a term not provided for in Jockey Club medical provisions on concussion — and the rider was allowed to go home.

If the ten-day medical suspension had remained in force, McCoy would have been free to ride in the Grand National on Saturday week. However, when Dr Michael Turner, the Jockey Club medical adviser, discovered the mistake he extended the ban to 21 days.

The serious lapse, which has infuriated officials at the Jockey Club and prompted an urgent investigation, comes after recent criticism of medical shortcomings at Warwick, Yarmouth and Southwell, where Richard Davis was killed in a riding accident.

Although the Jockey Club has provided detailed instructions for medical cover, it has no control or jurisdiction over doctors who are appointed by, and are responsible to, individual racecourses. A total of 198 doctors are on racecourse panels but some may only be on duty for two or three meetings a year.

"These are well-meaning people trying to do a good job looking after jockeys' interests, but sometimes they don't quite apply the rules as they are written down by the Jockey Club," Turner said yesterday. "This is something we are constantly looking at and seeing how we can resolve. I have no direct jurisdiction over the doctors. That is perfectly reasonable given the way everything was set up, but if you want to move on and professionalise what is at present a 'non-professional' service then things will have to change."

The Jockey look at the id small, regiona course medic swerable to P which would regularly at t fore keep abr requirements

The McCoy came to light reports that been unconsc minutes after Jockey Club ru that if a joc unconscious fo less than a mi be suspended period of six fi rider has suffe period of u (over 60 secon be sent to hos cally suspend mum period of

McCoy: mis

After lying u the racetrack, treated by a v lance attendan Lloyd, a cours subsequently to the jockey had out for about However, when ined McCoy in t room near t weighing-room enforce the rule

David McAlli of the course at yesterday: "M have been stoo total of 21 days a hospital. The d tion is brand ne us on January the job and very made a horlicks

McAllister ac pose ultimately bility is mine."

Medical br
Ra

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